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# THE TIMES

No. 64,529 THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 1992 45p

## Smith hit by crossfire as Labour splits at the top

**A clash between the "modernisers" and those who believe Labour has already compromised too far is marring John Smith's reforming efforts**

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith's efforts to regain power for Labour after the loss of four elections are being hampered by divisions at the top of the party over the strategy it needs to adopt to win in 1996 or 1997.

The Labour leader has been caught in the crossfire between two factions with diametrically differing views of how the party should respond to its election defeat last April.

A group including Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Margaret Beckett, the deputy leader, who want to continue the reforming efforts begun under Neil Kinnock, are being strongly resisted by a faction led by John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, and including national executive colleagues such as Clare Short, who believe that the party has compromised too much on its traditional beliefs.

An impasse has developed inside a powerful committee established by Mr Smith to run Labour's campaigning strategy. Known as the leader's committee, it is chaired by Mrs Beckett and includes many senior members of the shadow cabinet.

Its first two meetings have ended inconclusively after lengthy, sometimes acrimonious, discussions. The second, held on the day the Commons rose for the Christmas recess, was described by one participant as "terrible". Mrs Beckett was said to have "laid down the law" and told her colleagues that the discussions should remain confidential if they were to have any practical effect and proceed on the basis of trust; however, left-wingers challenged this view and said the party should not be muzzled but hold an open debate about its future.

At the heart of the dispute is confidential voter research, recently presented to the party, which the reformers are claiming as evidence that it must continue to change if it is to return to power. A group of electors who contemplated voting Labour in April, but decided late in the campaign against doing so, told researchers they would still not back the party if there were an election tomorrow.

At the first leader's committee meeting, senior shadow cabinet members argued the party must widen its base and shake off its union-dominated image, while keeping the traditional link between the industrial and political wings of

the movement, if it were ever to succeed.

But they encountered vehement opposition from shadow cabinet members such as Mr Prescott. He launched an open challenge to the modernisers, speaking out strongly in favour of close ties with the union movement and suggesting that Labour had compromised enough to the marketing men. Mr Prescott pointed out that the abandonment of allegedly unpopular policies had not won Labour the election.

He was backed strongly by Ms Short and fellow left-wingers. Even Larry Whitty, the general secretary, is reported to have voiced doubt about Labour's ability to attract many more voters by such methods. Their view was that Labour should consolidate on its existing base.

The left is accusing the reformers, through bodies such as the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, which recently criticised Mr Smith, of pursuing their own agenda of one member, one vote, removal of the union link, and the ending of universal benefits.

The dispute has been aggravated, some participants say, by the disinclination of Mr Smith to give shadow cabinet colleagues a hint of what he wishes to see coming out of party enquiries on electoral reform and union links.

But sources on the left say the modernisers are nervous and frustrated by Mr Smith's refusal to lead in the Kinnock style. One said: "Neil used to tell his friends on the NEC [national executive committee] what he wanted, and he got it. When he set up an enquiry, he gave an indication of what he wanted, and he got it. Smith is more interested in listening to the left than Neil ever was, and some people can't stand it."

The leader's committee is usually set up by Labour leaders to take charge of strategy in the immediate run-up to a general election. Mr Smith has broken with tradition in establishing it so early in the life of a parliament.



Hopkins: hopes his knighthood is not only for his performance as a serial killer. (Photograph: Michael Powell)

**Holiday parents abandon two girls at home**

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A SUN-TANNED Chicago man and his wife have been arrested on their return from a nine-day holiday in Mexico after leaving their two small daughters by themselves for Christmas in a cruel parody of the hit film *Home Alone*.

Nicole Schoo, 9, and her sister Diana, 4, were discovered at the family's suburban home in St Charles, Illinois, when a smoke alarm went off last week. Their parents had left them a refrigerator full of food and a note telling them what to eat and when to go to bed, but no means of contacting them.

David Schoo, 45, who works for a smoke-alarm maker, and his wife Sharon, 35, were handcuffed and led away as they stepped off their plane home from Acapulco on Tuesday. Bystanders shouted "Scrooge" as they were taken away to jail, with bail set at \$50,000 each.

They were charged with child abandonment, cruelty to children and child endangerment. Their daughters have been made wards of the state and stayed with their maternal grandmother until Tuesday, when they were moved to a foster family in the area. The grandmother told police she thought that the parents had made arrangements to look after them.

In *Home Alone*, a young boy, also from suburban Chicago, has to fend for himself after he is mistakenly left behind by his family when they take a Christmas trip to Paris. The sequel, *Home Alone II*, is showing in cinemas around the United States.

The two sisters' plight came to light on December 21 — a Continued on page 3, col 8

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**Bullish Lamont offers no early rate cuts**

By PETER RIDDELL AND ANATOLE KALETSKY

BRITAIN'S economy will do much better next year than in 1992, but there will be no further reductions in interest rates unless growth falls below the Treasury's expectations, according to Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a new year interview with *The Times*. He is bullish about economic prospects and unrepentant about the government's performance in the past year.

Mr Lamont said: "Recent evidence has been encouraging. We have had very good car sales in December and reports of buoyant sales in the shops. Surveys of business confidence have improved. There is every reason to believe that 1993 will be much better than 1992. I would not be surprised if trends in the British economy were better than in some of our European competitors."

Mr Lamont's remarks may, however, disappoint the City, where many investors have been hoping for a further cut in interest rates early in the new year. The Chancellor said that interest rate reductions would be considered only "if monetary demand was manifestly too low".

Asked whether he would expect to change interest rates if the economy performed in line with the Treasury's forecast of 1 per cent growth, the Chancellor replied with an emphatic "no".

He repeatedly expressed confidence that he had done enough in his Autumn Statement to ensure that his forecasts of economic recovery would be fulfilled.

Mr Lamont said that Autumn Statement measures for industry and housing, and the big cuts in interest rates and Continued on page 2, col 5

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### Food prices tumble in superstores war

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE supermarket giant Sainsbury is to cut prices on hundreds of products from Sunday. Rivals Tesco and Sainsbury will join the fray on Monday. All promise customer discounts of up to 50 per cent on hundreds of their food and drink products. None would disclose details last night.

Gateway is also planning a promotion on some of its basic food lines from Monday. Asda, which is offering discounts of up to 50 per cent on some foods, pledged to keep its food prices lower than the others.

Sainsbury started the price war with news of reductions on 750 items, described by the company as its "biggest and best ever price cuts package". It will start in 140 of its biggest stores and eight Sainsbury centres on Sunday with cuts ranging from 15 to 50 per cent. The reductions will cover meat, wine, dairy and frozen foods.

Tesco followed suit almost immediately. A spokeswoman said: "Our promotional programme has always been at least as competitive as that of Sainsbury and we anticipate

that next week will be no different." Tesco is putting over 1,000 products from all sections of the store in its January sale, with discounts of 33 per cent on 100 lines and some at half price. Robin Whitbread, marketing director, said that Christmas sales were ahead of budget.

Sainsbury's new-year promotion will spotlight reductions on 500 lines including 50 per cent savings on pre-packed British bacon, eggs, packet spaghetti and tinned tomatoes. Sainsbury also disclosed that it was planning a promotional cut-price summer holiday offer with Thomson, based on till receipts.

Paul Dowling, Asda's corporate affairs director, accused both Sainsbury and Tesco of "seasonal gimmickry". He said: "We are, and will remain, the lowest price national superstore."

Marks & Spencer refused to be involved in a price war. "Our aim is to offer excellent value and quality throughout the year."

Full details, page 21  
Stock market, page 24

### Black Sea summit on nuclear pact

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENTS Yeltsin and Bush will meet in the Black Sea resort of Sochi to sign the Start 2 treaty at the weekend.

This second full summit between the American and Russian leaders will provide Mr Bush with a final foreign policy success as he prepares to hand over the presidency to Bill Clinton on January 20.

The treaty, final details of which were agreed in Geneva by foreign ministers of the two countries, will cut stockpiles of strategic nuclear warheads by two-thirds. It will abolish the most dangerous Cold war weapon — intercontinental land-based missiles with multiple warheads.

Mr Bush said he had spoken to Mr Yeltsin by telephone yesterday, and said the treaty was "good for all mankind".

Mr Bush will go to Sochi, a sub-tropical resort long favoured by the Soviet elite, after a new year visit to US forces in Somalia.

Active Bush, page 12

### New year honour for TV's David Frost

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE actor Anthony Hopkins and television personality David Frost are both knighted today in the New Year Honours List. They head an array of honours in a list that will be the last before John Major begins changing the system.

Although Hopkins is best known for his role as the serial killer Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, he hoped that the knighthood was not purely a result of the film. "I wouldn't like to think that that was the reason for it, and I would hate to become a national institution," he said.

Mr Frost, 53, who made his name fronting the irreverent *That Was The Week That Was* 30 years ago, has interviewed many world leaders in the past two decades and on Sunday begins a new BBC career by interviewing the prime minister.

Among the six new Dames are Catherine Cookson, the novelist, who is honoured for her charitable work, and Margaret Price, the operatic soprano. Britain's winners in last summer's Olympic Games become MBEs.

Mr Major is shortly to make

a statement on how he intends to bring the honours system up to date. Next year's list will be the first test of the prime minister's resolve to introduce a system that concentrates on merit and gradually ends the process by which senior civil servants and diplomats are virtually guaranteed awards according to rank.

Shirley Williams, the former SDP president and Labour education secretary, is the only life peer named today. She is the last of the original Gang of Four, who founded the SDP, to take her seat in the Lords.

There are awards for two television entertainers, Leslie Crowther and Roy Castle, who have had brushes with death this year and are honoured for their charity work. In sport, Gordon Strachan, the Leeds United midfielder, former Scottish international and 1991 footballer of the year, becomes an OBE, as does Micky Stewart, the former England cricket team manager.

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WINNING THE TIMES OVERSEAS

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France	27.28
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Greece	27.28
Holland	27.28
India	27.28
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## MPs call for special team to police MI5 operations

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of MPs will call next month for a special parliamentary committee to be set up to scrutinise the work of the intelligence services.

In a report to be published on January 13, the Commons home affairs committee is to argue that the time has come to make MI5 and the other security services more accountable by establishing a new committee. However, it is likely to recommend that committee membership be confined to privy counsellors, who are bound by an oath of confidentiality.

The report centres on MI5, which covers anti-terrorist operations within the UK, but it is expected to suggest that Parliament also monitor MI6 and military intelligence, as in many other countries.

The decision by the Tory-majority committee, chaired by Sir Ivan Lawrence, to demand more accountability puts it on collision course with Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary.

During its enquiry, Mr Clarke told the committee that he believed it was impossible for MPs to police MI5 without delving into its operations, which could put the lives of its agents at risk.

The committee believes that a special body of MPs could monitor the agency's policies without trespassing into operational details. It may recommend that chairmen and representatives from the home affairs, foreign affairs and

defence committees make up the bulk of the new body to reflect the three strands of the intelligence services.

The key area for investigation would be MI5's strategy for tracking down IRA terrorists and thwarting mainland bombing campaigns. The MPs were influenced by the decision to give MI5 the leading role in the fight against terrorism, eroding the committee's powers for scrutinising anti-crime activities.

John Major's policy advisers are also known to be considering ways of making the security services more accountable for their actions. Early indications suggest that, although they would not favour an existing select committee shadowing the work of the security services, they are not adverse to a committee of privy counsellors being allowed access to non-operational information.

Legislation will be introduced, possibly next year, to put MI5 on the same statutory basis as MI6, which was regulated by the 1989 Security Service Act.

The all-party committee's January report is not expected to be critical of MI5, but rejects Mr Clarke's case for stopping MPs from examining any aspect of its work. The committee is likely to make concessions to Mr Clarke by agreeing that all MPs be deprived of their automatic right to sit in on the deliberations of the new body to guarantee secrecy.

The recommendations will be carefully phrased to avoid offending MPs who are not privy counsellors. There will be no suggestion that they cannot be trusted to keep discussions confidential.

The home secretary turned down the committee's request to question Stella Rimington, head of MI5, at a formal hearing. After some committee MPs complained that she had accepted invitations to lunch from journalists, Mr Clarke reluctantly agreed that six MPs on the committee should have an informal lunch with Mrs Rimington in her London office on January 18. The main topic of conversation is likely to be the committee's report and the IRA's mainland bombing campaign.

## RSC hit by loss of sponsor

By ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's finances took a severe blow yesterday with the announcement that the Royal Insurance group will cease its sponsorship at the end of 1993.

The largest single sponsorship of a performing arts company began in 1988 when Royal Insurance donated £1.2 million to the RSC over three years. The contract was renewed in 1991 for £2.1 million, taking the RSC through to 1993.

The RSC said it was under no illusions about the difficulty of attracting such large sums from business. "We are in the teeth of recession and it isn't the easiest time to be looking for new sponsors," the company has a year's grace before thinking about cutbacks and every effort will be made to find alternative support, a spokesman said.

Royal Insurance sponsors specific projects at the Barbican and at Stratford upon Avon. It established the RSC/Royal Insurance annual tour in 1988 and it is in these areas that cuts may have to be made.

BT announced the end of its sponsorship of part of the RSC's touring activity earlier this year. Richard III was subsequently sent on the road without a sponsor and did not visit all the planned locations.

Adrian Noble, RSC artistic director, said he hoped the decision did not preclude future partnership with the company, adding: "We quite understand their position. We have 12 months in which to plan for this change."



Set for the sun: the Princess of Wales boards a flight for Antigua at Gatwick

## Princess takes sons to Caribbean

THE Princess of Wales, reunited with Princes William and Harry, flew out to the tiny island of Antigua in the Caribbean yesterday.

She and her sons are then expected to fly to St Kitts, another island in the West Indies, which has already been vetted by detectives travelling ahead for the week-long holiday.

The princess is thought to be making the trip to compensate for not being with William and Harry over Christmas, which they spent at Sandringham. She left Kensington Palace yesterday travelling with the eight other

members of the party. At Gatwick they drove onto the tarmac alongside the British Airways 747. Looking thin and slightly pale in a blue blazer and slacks, she turned briefly to look back, but there was no flicker of a smile before she disappeared inside the aircraft, clutching a black and white striped duffel bag.

The holiday comes after the princess spent last week at the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family while the princess remained at Althorp Hall, the Northamptonshire home of her brother, Earl Spencer. Her mother, Frances Shand

## Lifers on home visits honour promises

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS serving life sentences in Northern Ireland, including some of the province's most notorious paramilitary killers, all returned to jail on time yesterday after their third Christmas home leave.

The Northern Ireland Office said that 456 prisoners were allowed out for Christmas of which 120 were lifers from both sides of the political divide.

The scheme, which is unique to Northern Ireland, allows prisoners who have served a minimum of 11 years to go home for a week over Christmas and another week in August. It is made clear to them before temporary parole is granted that anyone who absconds will bring the scheme to an abrupt end.

Lifers were included in the scheme for the first time three years ago. While in England home leave at Christmas and at other times is granted to prisoners only after a date has been fixed for their permanent release, in Northern Ireland the scheme is more flexible.

However, this causes problems. Some of the prisoners released this Christmas were on their sixth home visit but still have no prospect of a permanent release. They believe this contradicts the stated intention of the Northern Ireland Office to use the scheme to help integrate long serving prisoners back into society and family life in preparation for their release.

One prisoner caught in this trap is Felim O'Hagan, a former member of the IRA who was sentenced to life for the murder of a police officer in 1977. O'Hagan was told in September that a recommendation by the life sentence review board that he be released had been turned down by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary. He has been told that he must serve at least another two years before his case can be reviewed.

O'Hagan said this week that this leaves him and his family in a very difficult position. "The two criteria for release are that you are no longer a risk and that you have served enough time. If I didn't meet these why am I being let out on parole? They're playing politics with prisoners and their families. It's designed to create confusion and put pressure on your family."

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman was unavailable to comment on the case.

## Stabbing of WPC: man is charged

A 28-year-old unemployed man appeared in court yesterday charged with the attempted murder of police woman Leslie Harrison. Stephen Doyle, of Everton, Liverpool, said nothing during the 10-minute hearing before the city's magistrates. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Mr Doyle also faced one charge of wounding, three of attempted wounding, another of attempted burglary, the unlawful taking of a taxi and driving without insurance. He made no application for bail, and was remanded in custody until January 6. Miss Harrison, 29, of Warrington, Cheshire, was said to be "making good progress" in a Liverpool hospital yesterday.

## Windsor to reopen

Windsor Castle is to be reopened to the public next month at a reduced price so the fire damage can be viewed. The ruined St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room will be on view behind protective screens. A spokesman said: "There is a lot of public interest in what has happened here and we may benefit if people can have a look at the fire damage. It will look pretty gross, with just smoke-blackened walls." Work to restore the rooms, expected to last several years and cost £60 million, will continue as visitors look on. The castle reopens on January 16, and will charge £2.50, reduced from £4. About 800,000 visitors a year visited the castle before the fire last month.

## Police get baby tip-off

Police are hoping a telephone tip-off from an anonymous caller will lead them to the mother of a newborn baby abandoned on a freezing golf course. Inquiries centred on the village of Carlton, Nottinghamshire, where a man who appeared to have knowledge of the mother telephone from a kiosk just after midnight. It is four miles north of Worksop, where the baby was found on Monday. Police believe the mother may need urgent medical attention. The baby was continuing to make a good recovery at Baselow General Hospital, Worksop, where staff named him Christopher. He was put in a cot yesterday morning, his temperature has stabilised and he is feeding regularly.

## Plea by murder police

Police seeking the killer of 14-year-old Johanna Young appealed yesterday to anyone who may be harbouring the murderer. Det Supt Michael Cole said: "The killer undoubtedly would have been heavily mud-stained and may have suffered scratches from brambles. I ask families to consider this, with the serious nature of this crime, and if they have any doubts about anyone close to them, inform us." The girl's body was found on Boxing day in woodland a mile from her home at Watton, Norfolk.

## Speelman chases title

After three rounds of the Hastings chess tournament Jon Speelman, right, the London grandmaster, shares the lead with favourite Evgeny Bareev from Moscow after beating the Hungarian Judit Polgar, 16, the world's youngest grandmaster. Bareev beat the lowly ranked British master Colin Crouch. Britons John Nunn and Matthew Sadler, in third and fifth positions, drew their



game. Polgar is fourth. The players, who must face each other twice, have no games today. The competition ends on January 13. Full scores after round three: Bareev (Russia), Speelman (UK) 2½ points; Nunn (UK) 2; Polgar (Hungary), Sadler (UK) 1½; Potugavski (Russia) 1; Crouch (UK), Gurevich (USA), 0.

## Rider killed by horse

A university lecturer was crushed to death by her horse after it collapsed on top of her during a Boxing day ride, it was disclosed yesterday. Caroline Bell, 25, a psychology lecturer at Stafford University, had gone out alone into the countryside near her parents' home in Milford, Surrey, after lunch. She was found an hour later, trapped under her lifeless gelding Beadle, by walkers. Mr Bell, 52, a schoolteacher, said that he and his wife Nadine, 48, were already prepared for the worst when the news of Caroline's death reached them almost three hours after she set off. He said her death had wiped out a promising career as one of the youngest lecturers in the country.

## Boy 'divorces' mother

A teenage boy whose mother constantly ridiculed him has won the right to live away from her, a solicitor said yesterday. The boy, 16, from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, moved in with his grandparents after a ruling from a judge at Nottingham Crown Court on December 16. The mother is banned from contact with him. Mary Jolly, the solicitor who handled the case, said that the boy was made to eat away from his family and that his education was suffering. The mother was not informed of the hearing.

## Dial 112 in emergency

A new Europe-wide emergency telephone number comes into effect tomorrow. Anyone dialling 112 will be linked to police, fire and ambulance in a scheme that will run parallel with 999 in Britain. The emergency number will help up to ten million Britons who visit the EC each year and millions of European visitors to the UK. BT said there was no question of 999 being scrapped. A European Commission spokesman said all 12 states had agreed to put the 112 number into operation during 1993.

## Victims of crime 'hurt' by news reports

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE identities of crime victims should only be published with their consent, and families should be consulted before "true crime" magazines or television programmes re-enact their stories, according to a report by the Victim Support organisation.

The rise of such magazines and television programmes which dramatise sensational stories hurts families who may learn painful new details. One father described the experience as "trespassing on our grief".

Victim Support suggests in the report, released today, that journalists should at least warn families that articles or programmes are being prepared.

The report, *Victims Twice Over*, was drawn up for the Calcutt review of press self-regulation and investigations into media intrusion and privacy. Two years after the original Calcutt report, evidence suggests that victims are still suffering a "secondary victimisation" at the hands of the media when journalists

pursue victims and use deception to get their stories.

Cases cited include a woman who was seriously attacked and whose family specifically requested the police for no publicity. A reporter from a national tabloid newspaper reached her in hospital and pestered the family for photographs. The newspaper was asked twice not to identify the woman and ignored the requests. The woman had difficulty recovering because of the publicity and the family is moving.

In another case, the victim of an attempted murder had his address printed and was visited at 2am by two intimidating friends of his attacker.

Victim Support says there is also concern at the way newspapers report claims made about victims when mitigation is being given in court by defence lawyers and suggests that newspapers should check thoroughly before running the stories. It calls for tougher controls over journalists, whether by voluntary code or law.

## Man dies in police car escape

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN arrested on suspicion of criminal damage died after jumping out of an escape-proof police car.

Wayne Bowen, 31, of Sheerness, Kent was being taken to Sittingbourne police station in the specially adapted vehicle when he kicked out the side window and climbed on to the roof. As the WPC driving the Peugeot 309 patrol car braked, he fell in front of it. A spokeswoman for Kent police said the car was designed to transport prisoners. "Inside is a thick perspex bubble which separates the police officers from the prisoner in the rear. Standard glass is fitted to the windows but the winding mechanism and internal door handles are removed, along with the locks."

"This man was arrested following a pub disturbance. He was being taken to Sittingbourne police station for questioning. It was a minor offence. We are baffled as to why he climbed out of the car."

## Lamont bullish on new year prospects

Continued from page 1

the devaluation of sterling since Black Wednesday had "created the right conditions for confidence and growth". Monetary policy had already been relaxed "very substantially" through the interest-rate cut and sterling's devaluation.

Mr Lamont estimated that as much as two-thirds of the impact of the recent three-point reduction in interest rates was "still in the pipeline" and added that the "very warm welcome" given by industry to his Autumn Statement measures meant that there was "every chance that they will succeed". The combination of monetary relaxation and carefully directed fiscal measures had opened opportunities for business and created a climate of confidence.

Mr Lamont was unrepentant about sterling's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. The ERM had brought "enormous benefits" to Europe and had helped Britain to defeat inflation during its membership, he said. However, if other countries now chose to tie their currencies even more

closely in narrower ERM margins, the implications for Britain would be limited, he said.

Mr Lamont was unperturbed by the size of Britain's current account deficit, despite concern in the business community that the balance of payments gap will be a constraint on economic growth. "I don't believe we will have difficulty in financing the deficit. I'm obviously not indifferent to the current account, but I do not regard it as my major problem," he said.

The economic problem that did seem to worry Mr Lamont was the high level of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). "Our objective for the PSBR remains to move back towards balance as the economy recovers. This is a serious issue which I shall be examining carefully," he said. He ruled out any cuts in public spending or increases in taxes that would conflict with election manifesto promises, but refused to comment on speculation that value-added tax might have to be extended to zero-rated items.

Interview, page 16

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## Cheaper home loans entice couples to switch from renting

By IAN MURRAY

YOUNG couples are leading the way in a new house-buying boom, having discovered that it is cheaper to own their home than to rent one. Estate agents around the country confirmed yesterday that the first-time buyer can expect to pay up to a third less in mortgage repayments than in rent on a similar property.

"The difference can be as much as £200 a month," according to David Goldsworthy, an agent based in Ealing, west London, who specialises in rental property. "It is all a question of affordability. Young couples are coming into my office now and saying they only want a short-term lease because they are thinking of buying in the spring."

Mr Goldsworthy is president-elect of the National Association of Estate Agents, which claims that December has been the busiest month for three years, due to lower interest rates. "People are coming back into the buying market and opting out of renting," he said.

According to Keith Turner, Watford regional manager of the Cornerstone Abbey National group agency: "There has been a very encouraging December and we are now hopeful it will follow through into the new year. The only factor that is missing is confidence in the employment mar-

ket and we can do nothing about that.

"The ratio of house prices to salaries is at its lowest for many years and people have started to realise the real value of their buying power. The rent on an average house around here can be about £400 a month, while the same property on an 80 per cent mortgage will only cost £270 a month. That fact is proving a big attraction."

Peter White, chief executive of Alliance and Leicester, said: "There is evidence to suggest that, for some, interest rates and property prices are now low enough to encourage people to buy rather than rent." He said that his group had seen a substantial increase in sales recently, with sales were noticeably up on a year ago. "This is a very encouraging sign although it is too early to say whether it marks a definite upturn."

Maureen Freeman, of GA Property Services, said that December had seen an average increase in business of 20 to 25 per cent over the same month last year. "There has been a significant improvement in the number of people coming through offices to make enquiries and this held up steadily through to Christmas. There are also a lot more properties which have been sold subject to contract, which means there is an increased

pipeline leading into next year. In January we will be monitoring what is happening with hearts pounding to see if they haven't spent all their savings in the sales and stop buying houses."

Mrs Freeman had also noticed people switching away from rented property. "Buying a house means people have more choice. They are asking: 'What is this going to cost me a month?' and finding that a three-bedroomed house is around £75 a week to rent. For a similar sort of sum they can choose from a larger selection of houses for sale. Like for like, it is cheaper to buy than to rent."

In Exeter, Ray Casling, director of the local agency Constables, said that business had picked up in the last week of November, which had been the best week his firm had seen for two years. The figures had been beaten in each successive week in December.

"It is normally quite quiet over Christmas, but there seems to be a desire to go out and buy," he said. "The interest rates are at their lowest and those with secure jobs suddenly seem to have had enough of waiting and have decided, 'Let's go for it.' Prices may drop a little bit more over the next three months, but then we might see stability. That is what we need to create confidence again."



Flight to jail: David and Sharon Schoo being led away by police after arriving home from holiday in Mexico

## Parents abandon daughters

Continued from page 1  
day after their parents left — when they splashed water into a heating vent while taking a bath, triggering a smoke alarm. Nicole telephoned the police emergency number and the two fled barefoot and screaming from the house.

Connie Stadelmann, the neighbour who discovered them, said: "I wrapped them up in blankets to warm them up and then I said, 'Where's your Mom or Dad?' and they said, 'They're in Mexico.' How could anybody ever do this? Who could ever think that as parents they would go away for ten days and leave their kids?"

She said that Nicole had told the police that the two sisters had been left alone for four days last summer when their parents went to Massachusetts. "For a long time, I was feeling really lonely and wondering what they were doing," Nicole told a local television station.

Police said Mr and Mrs Schoo were apparently unaware that they faced arrest on their return to Chicago. Neither said anything as they were led from the aircraft. They did not ask about their daughters, but did ask if they could collect their luggage — an amusing speculation that they might have brought their children Christmas presents.

"It's a possibility," a police sergeant said. "They had a tremendous amount of carry-on luggage with them, and luggage they checked in."

## Glue attack milkman recovers

THE eyes of the mugged milkman Adrian Stayte remained superglued closed yesterday, but doctors were hopeful that he would be able to see again within a few days.

Mr Stayte was at home yesterday in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, where his wife Jeanette regularly bathed his eyelids with a solvent to weaken the superglue and make it flake off. He also had a further hospital check-up.

His employer, Cotswold Dairies, offered a £1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Mr Stayte's attackers. Roger Workman, the managing director, said: "This was such a vicious act that we felt we had to do something."

Mr Stayte said that when the glue was squirted into his eyes "it really stung", and went on: "I was terrified as I suddenly realised what it is to be blind. But I am hopeful that in three to four days I shall be able to see again. Only a very small amount of glue got past my eyelids and touched one eye but the doctors think it will be OK."

Two men attacked Mr Stayte at 3.45am on Tuesday on his round in Cheltenham.

## Teenagers look to Europe for jobs

By NICHOLAS WATT

A SURVEY of teenage attitudes published yesterday raises the prospect of a "youth drain" to the Continent. More than three-quarters of the 13 to 17-year-olds questioned (78 per cent) said they would be happy to work in Europe if they found the right job. Only 13 per cent said they would not consider working in another European country.

Nearly half (45 per cent) of the teenagers questioned in the TSB Major's Children '92 survey supported a single European currency and more than a third (39 per cent) thought it was great to be part of the EC. But the teenagers were by no means Euro-fanatics. Thirty per cent thought the EC compounded Britain's problems, compared with 22 per cent who did not.

Northerners were the most committed Europeans, with 82 per cent saying they would like to work on the Continent. Dr David Lewis, a psychologist who helped to compile the survey, said: "Maybe this is because they are further away from Europe. Distance lends a certain enchantment."

Frank Wilson, who also helped to compile the survey, said British teenagers were far

more familiar with Europe than previous generations. "They showed an enormous level of knowledge and interest in the Community," he said.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a former president of the European Commission, was heartened that so many teenagers wanted to work in Europe. "This suggests that whatever the intricacies of Maastricht there is a groundswell of young people in favour of Europe," he said yesterday. "I have always believed that anti-European feelings in this country come from politicians rather than the public."

The youngsters, who were dubbed the "gentle generation" when they were first interviewed in the spring, are now the "hardy generation" as they cope with the deepening recession. Ten per cent have seen their fathers lose their jobs this year and a fifth of the 17-year-olds interviewed have still not found jobs after leaving school in the summer. Of the four out of five who failed to find work, almost half have gone back to education to "sit out the recession".

Young prefer sport, page 40

## Birthday blues send Floyd's customers running for cover

By ROBIN YOUNG

KEITH Floyd, the television cook known as the guzzling gourmet because of the frequency with which he lifts a wine glass to his lips while cooking, suffers from Christmas birthday syndrome. That, at least, is his excuse for marking his birthday this week by throwing a tantrum in his own pub, hurling glasses at rows of whisky bottles behind the bar, driving customers into the street and walking out on his wife.

Mr Floyd was 49 on December 28. If only he had been born on Christmas day, according to a survey of Who's Who publications, events might have been quite different.

Mr Floyd attributes the origin of his outburst to his belief that his wife Shaughnessy had neglected to give him a birthday present. After recovering some degree of composure at a neighbouring hotel, he said: "I have behaved in an utterly disgusting manner and I am ashamed of myself. I know it sounds childish and ridiculous but when your birthday is a few days after Christmas nobody ever bothers to buy you a birthday present. It is something that has got to me ever since I was a little boy."

Mrs Floyd said yesterday: "I did give Keith four or five presents, including a globe.

When he unwrapped it on Christmas day I told him it was his birthday present. There could have been some confusion on the day."

It had been planned that friends and customers at Mr Floyd's pub, the Malsters Arms at Tucknham near Totnes in Devon, should



Floyd: "I know it sounds childish"

celebrate their host's birthday with oysters and caviar. Mrs Floyd said: "As it happened, he chose to go missing from about 11.30am until 3pm, when he came back and cleared the bar and ordered me out too. There was never an opportunity to lay his birthday treat out."

Mr Floyd vowed yesterday at the Waterman's Arms that he would not return to his wife, though Mrs Floyd

insisted that her husband was forgiven.

He said: "I am fed up with being the bad guy. Everywhere I go people expect me to be the laughing happy person they see on TV with a glass of wine in his hand, but no one can be like that all the time. The other Keith Floyd is not allowed to exist."

People with birthdays close to Christmas frequently complain that their anniversaries are subsumed in the greater festivities, but research has shown that those born on December 25 enjoy enhanced chances of success in life.

A study of 9,000 people in Who's Who publications showed 608 birthday listings for December 25, more than 15 times the number that would have been expected. High-ranking clergy, such as bishops, were found to be four times more likely to be born on Christmas day than any other date.

If it is any consolation to Mr Floyd, those born on December 28 include the American President Woodrow Wilson (1856), Philip Wilson Steer, the impressionist painter (1860), and Earl "Fatha" Hines, the jazz pianist (1903). He and Mrs Floyd might like to know, too, that December 28 is also the feast day of the Holy Innocents.

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The great switching of channels: on the eve of ITV franchise transfer, The Times traces the colourful

## Lights out at TV-am as thinking pink fails to save success story

Reports by Melinda Wittstock  
Media Correspondent

BRUCE Gyngell, the man credited with transforming a near-bankrupt TV-am into one of the world's most profitable television stations, stood up in Claridge's ballroom 14 months ago to read a letter handwritten on Commons notepaper. "Dear Bruce: When I see how some of the other licences have been awarded, I am mystified that you did not receive yours, and heartbroken... I am only too painfully aware that I was responsible for the legislation. Yours, Margaret."

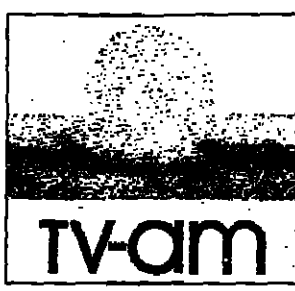
Today, TV-am broadcast for the last time, massively outbid by GMTV in Margaret Thatcher's discredited blind-bid ITV auction.

Mr Gyngell, a charismatic Australian transcendental meditator with a belief in the mystical properties of the colour pink, became known as the former prime minister's favourite broadcaster after a

bitter 1988 strike. Audience ratings actually rose by 10 per cent when the channel was forced to broadcast repeats of *Happy Days* and *Barnes* until it could teach secretaries how to operate camera equipment vacated by 229 sacked technicians. Soon afterwards, Mrs Thatcher denounced broadcasting unions as "the last bastion of restrictive practices" and introduced the auction that ultimately lost TV-am its licence.

Since then, TV-am has retained a loyal audience of more than two million each morning despite a round of dramatic cost-cutting which involved handing news coverage to Sky News, replacing much of its political coverage with new "light" items and new cartoon slots.

In its ten-year life, TV-am produced more catchphrases, characters and dramatic scenes than most broadcasters



three times its age. Unfortunately, none of these moments was ever part of the programming, from Anna Ford's wine-tasting and David Frost's talk of "sexual chemistry" on the set during the days of the "Famous Five", to Mr Gyngell's demand that the staff "think pink" and "pool spiritual energy" during the franchise round.

Following the abrupt failure of its upmarket early days, TV-am introduced a furry puppet named Roland Rat, pastel sofas and breezy banter between two unknown presenters named Anne Diamond and Nick Owen.

Greg Dyke, the mind be-

hind the new "snap, crackle and pop" breakfast fare in TV-am's Egg Cup studios at Camden Lock, increased audiences from 200,000 to 1.5 million. But when Mr Gyngell arrived in 1984, one of his first demands was for budget cuts. Mr Dyke resigned to become LWT's millionaire chief executive. Seven years later, he ousted TV-am as a 20 per cent shareholder in GMTV, which bid £34.6 million against TV-am's £14.1 million to become the latest purveyor of quizzes, fitness tips, cartoons, news, showbiz interviews and "lonely hearts" matchmaking tomorrow.

Sharply rebuked in 1988 by the IBA, the Independent Television Commission's predecessor, and warned that it would lose its licence if it did not improve programme quality, TV-am invested in its news operation. Its authoritative reports during the Gulf war won it a letter of congratulation from Sir George Russell, the ITC chairman.

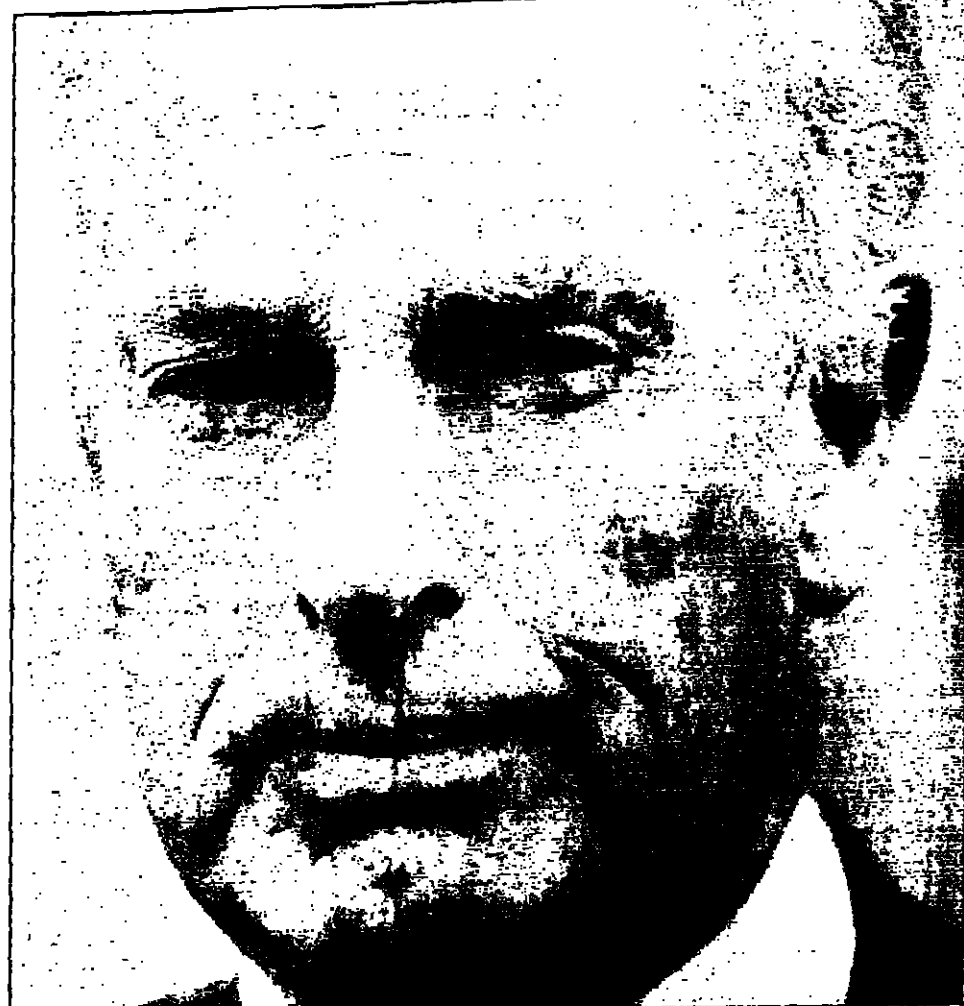
Mr Gyngell was convinced

that by 1991, attracting 17 million viewers each week — 70 per cent of the breakfast audience — TV-am could survive. But it was not to be. Mr Gyngell, shell-shocked by his loss, described the ITC's decision as "a travesty" and predicted that GMTV would be bankrupt by 1994.

GMTV will be handicapped by its large annual payments to the Treasury, a crippling advertising recession and fierce competition for ratings and revenue from *The Big Breakfast*. Channel 4's early morning offering which has confounded its critics with peak audiences of one million. But Mr Dyke is bullish: "We are big, rich companies involved in this. We don't have to make huge profits early on."

This month, TV-am finally abandoned hope of new television business, announcing a £27 million capital repayment to shareholders with 40p-a-share interim dividends paid two days ago.

Television, page 39



Last exit: Bruce Gyngell, who transformed TV-am, predicts doom for GMTV

## TVS seeks blessed relief from decade of disaster

LOSS of an ITV franchise used to mean certain death at the hands of a liquidator. Fortunately for TVS Entertainment, which tonight hands over the lucrative licence for southeast England to Meridian Broadcasting, there could be a reincarnation.

If the Rev Pat Robertson can overcome opposition from a few TVS shareholders to his £3.5 million takeover bid, the American television evangelist's International Family Entertainment will use TVS programmes to launch a British satellite channel that could bring together such attractions as *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Hill Street Blues*, the *Ruth Rendell* detective mysteries and *The Waltons*.

But if the deal gets blocked, TVS must stare mortality in the face, just as Southern Television did 12 years ago when it was ousted by TVS against all the odds.

TVS, whose programmes never lived up to its promises and whose ambitious acquisitions never lived up to City expectations, was long regarded as the most vulnerable of the ITV companies going into the 1991 blind-bid auction.

Even its attempts to thwart the auction proposals proved a disaster. The company commissioned a full-page advertisement showing a half-naked young woman under the headline "Italian housewives do it on TV", intended as a warning against the dangers of deregulated television. But when it emerged that the "Italian housewife" was actually an English model from Staines, that Italian television stations no longer broadcast "strip-tease shows" and that TVS had a stake in SuperChannel, which was proposing to screen "sex comedies", the embarrassment at TVS was almost unbearable.

Meanwhile, grandiose promises to break the cosy programme-supply cartel of the "Big Five" ITV companies (Thames, Granada, Yorkshire, Central and LWT) never materialised. Repeated



blueprint for success resulted in the disastrous £190 million 1988 takeover of MTM, Mary Tyler Moore's Hollywood production house which had broken all the rules of US prime time television by proving that quality programmes — from *Hill Street Blues* and *St Elsewhere* — could sell.

TVS suddenly had access to the American networks. But unbeknown to Mr Garward, or City stockbrokers who marked up the TVS share price, the US syndication market had collapsed. Profits warnings from TVS soon followed and by 1990 the City darling of the television industry had lost his £250,000-a-year job in a boardroom coup. Rudolph Agnew, the former chairman of Consolidated Goldfields, took over. But what he thought would be a surefire way of retaining the licence in an auction favouring the highest cash bidder backfired. A ludicrously high bid of £59.8 million a year was rejected on the ground that it could not sustain the programme promises. Only the intervention of the Rev Robertson can rescue it now.

## Cameras shed light on hidden antiques

THE BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* celebrates its 150th programme when a new series starts next month, and there is still no sign of Britain's hidden hoards of treasure drying up. After 15 years the Sunday show has become compulsive viewing for millions and has raised awareness that almost any home could contain a potential treasure trove.

"Roadshow still attracts large crowds wherever it goes," its presenter, Hugh Scully, said. "It's a delight to be associated with this, the most spontaneous programme on television. We have no idea of what the day will bring, but we are rarely disappointed. I never cease to be amazed at how many of Britain's treasures keep pouring in and, of course, it is the owners as well as the antiques that help to make the show such a success."

In Kingsbridge, Devon, two drawings bought at an Oxford shop during the war became the subject of an investigation

by the expert Peter Nahum to see if they are genuine. One is thought to be a Titian and the other by Veronese, which together could be worth a fortune. The results of checks will be reported later.

Other treasures unearthed in the series, which begins a 12-week run on BBC1 on January 3, include a painting in Beaulieu, Hampshire, which used to hang in a boilerroom, covered in coal dust and nicknamed Piggy by its owner. It turns out to be a fine example of the 19th century English artist John Vine, worth £8,000.

A piece of furniture sent for scrap 30 years ago in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, but saved from the dustcart by a neighbour who needed a table, turns out to be a George II walnut desk worth £6,500. A watercolour landscape of the Middle East is an 1866 work by the poet Edward Lear and worth £6,000.

Leading article, page 17

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and sometimes turbulent history of the stations that go off the air as midnight tolls the end of 1992

## Bitter Thames signs off but rejects talk of closedown

THAMES Television, once the jewel in the crown of the ITV network, ceases broadcasting at midnight tonight after 25 years.

From 10:45pm to 11:55pm, when the rest of the network gives way to ITN for the countdown to the new year and a new era of commercial broadcasting, London viewers will get a chance to wax nostalgic with a montage of clips including *The Naked Civil Servant*, *The World At War*, *The Sweeney*, *Morecambe and Wise* and *Death on the Rock*.

What was initially to be a four-hour finale hosted by Thames's best known stars was, like Thames itself, curtailed by its ITV rivals, adding insult to the injury of losing its licence in last year's blind-bid auction and being denied the chance to launch the nation's fifth terrestrial channel. At least BBC2 rescheduled a tribute to Granada Television, originally planned for tonight. But as champagne cools by at Carlton, its successor, there will be no wake at the Euston Road offices of Thames at midnight. "Thames didn't die. It will be much more of a celebration of a new beginning," Richard Dunn, its chief executive, said.

He is adamant that his company can look forward to a profitable future, confounding those who questioned its survival as an independent producer. Next year *The Bill*, *Minder*, *Wish You Were Here* and *Mr Bean* will still figure prominently in ITV schedules.

"Even without Channel 5, we believe we may have a business that proves as valuable as owning the London weekday licence and paying the Treasury £33 million [Thames's cash bid] for the privilege," Mr Dunn said. Thames has promised its shareholders a turnover next year of more than £100 million, half of which will come from production. The rest will come from UK Gold, the satellite channel that broadcasts Thames and BBC repeats; Thames International, its distribution arm; Reeves, its American production com-



pany, Teddington Studios, which has attracted business from the BBC and big independent producers; and its investment in Astra, the satellite company that transmits BSkyB's six channels.

Although Thames's future is rosier than many of its rivals, particularly Carlton, might have hoped, a residue of bitterness remains. It was Mr Dunn, as the former ITV Association chairman, who spearheaded a campaign to ameliorate the worst abuses of the franchise auction legislation by securing a "quality threshold" and an "exceptional circumstances" clause, which was meant to be used to award an ITV licence to a lower cash bidder provided its programme plans were of higher quality than those of its deeper-pocketed rivals. Mr Dunn still believes the ITC treated Thames shabbily by not invoking the exceptional circumstances clause to take account of its formidable record, despite a bid £10 million lower than Carlton's £43 million.

Thames's reputation for quality current affairs programmes had been buoyed in 1987 by *Death on the Rock*, the documentary about the SAS shootings of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar. That controversial hour of television made Mrs Thatcher's blood boil at the time when the government was considering proposals for the blind-bid auction. "I am beyond anger," the former prime minister said about *Death on the Rock*, which had been cleared by the IBA, the Independent Television Commission's regulatory predecessor, and later by an independent enquiry ordered by the government. Most of Mr Dunn's anger is

reserved for the tenacious Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, who has done everything in his power to obtain the lucrative ITV licence since the IBA blocked his £82.5 million bid for Thames in 1985. Poisonous relations between incoming and outgoing companies have always made it difficult to smooth a transition, but nothing in ITV's 37-year history rivals the animosity between Thames and Carlton.

Until two weeks ago, Carlton had been forced to promote its new programmes on LWT after failing to agree a price for advertising on Thames during an acrimonious High Court dispute over what Thames thought was a desultory offer of £6.8 million to buy the rights to hundreds of films in the Thames library. Carlton finally settled out of court and agreed to pay £13.1 million.



Trial run: Fiona Foster and Alastair Stewart preparing for Carlton's nightly news show *London Tonight*

## Party mood fades to black

SADNESS, resignation and anger will predominate in the newsrooms and studios of the four independent television stations that will be swept off air at midnight tonight (Louise Hidalgo writes).

When Thames Television hands over to the ITN newsroom for the last time, there will be only a skeleton staff at its Euston Road studios to mark the passing of 25 years as a broadcaster. "We have already had the farewell parties," said Roy Addison, a Thames spokesman.

At TSW, which hands over to Westcountry TV, those staff that remain will be commiserating in a "fade to black" party. "It suits the mood here: resigned sadness," one employee said.

TV-am is marking its demise in its hallmarked flamboyant style, with a champagne brunch after its last broadcast at 10am. As TVS goes off the air in Southampton, Meridian Broadcasting's staff, many of them former TVS employees, will be celebrating in the studio.

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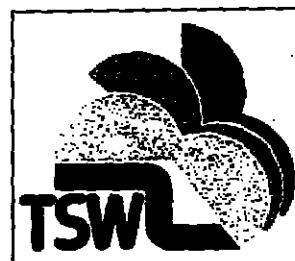
## Station pays a high price for failed bid

By LOUISE HIDALGO

TELEVISION South West, like TVS, lost its franchise after only ten years as a broadcaster and despite putting in a higher bid than its challenger for the audiences of Cornwall, Devon and west Dorset.

The decision led to one of the most acrimonious legal battles of the franchise round. Westcountry TV, which takes over at midnight, won the franchise with a bid of only £7.82 million, less than half the £16.2 million bid by TSW. The loser appealed, calling the decision "unfair and irrational". TSW took particular offence at the Independent Television Commission's dismissal of its business plan as "imprudent and unrealistic".

The judicial review that followed went all the way to the House of Lords, and lasted months. The battle has cost TSW dear. Only 16 of its 297 staff have been employed by



the new franchise holder. Many of those who have already lost their jobs, and the 100 who will do so after today, have not found employment. The company has yet to find a buyer for its prime site studios in central Plymouth.

TSW's only solace may be the deep uncertainty which has dogged the birth of its successor. Westcountry TV based its bid on the pledge that it would focus on regional programmes. The delay means four of the regional centres it promised will not be opening until late next year.

### The way it isn't



Next Year in Pull Part IV

September 5: The new controller of BBC1, Janet Street-Porter, sets out to establish a reputation for seriousness with the announcement that the 9 O'Clock News will be extended to an hour. "That way, we'll be able to include all the latest in top disco sounds plus a full run-down of the reggae charts," she explains.

September 10: The shortlist for the Booker Prize is condemned for its narrowness. "Where on the list is the Tasmanian woman writer under 35 writing about the effects of the ERM on the Welsh rural community, that's what I'd like to know," complains one critic.

September 25: IAN news-

caster Trevor McDonald hits back at those who suggest he sometimes puts emphasis on the wrong words. "They are talking non-sense," he says.

October 2: Lynda La Plante defends her new series, *Brothers in Crime*, in which a squad of retired monks performs ruthless bank robberies while drinking and swearing at one another. "I wanted to draw attention to the plight of retired monks," she explains. "I hope this might prevent them entering a life of crime."

October 10: The world of entertainment is shocked at John Osborne's speech as he accepts a new award. "He just said 'thank you' and expressed his gratitude to everyone who'd helped him," said one onlooker. "We were all utterly flabbergasted, and we certainly won't be inviting him again."

October 29: This year's Oscar for best movie goes to a film with just one criminal, three rapists and a mass-murder. "It was time to honour a movie for all the family," explains an insider.

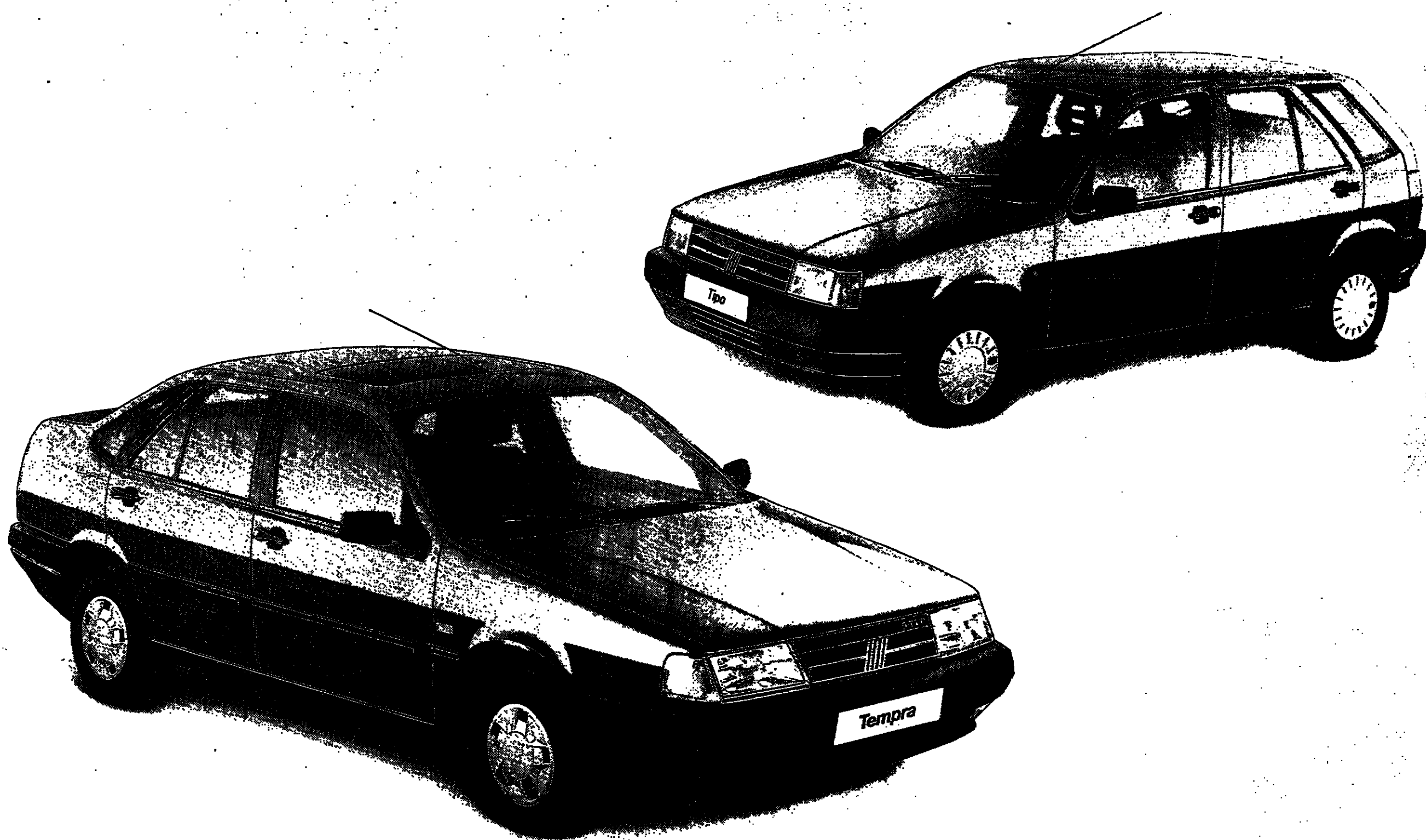
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The single market: life will change for international business, but will the public notice?

## Consumers get raw deal as Eurocrats gloat over triumph

By TOM WALKER

THE imminent arrival of the European single market has had the Brussels Eurocrats crowing and the outgoing British presidency in raptures at its own efforts in tying up the final details. But consumer organisations have refused to join the party, pointing to gaping holes in the market.

After listening to their arguments, it is difficult to see what is in the new market for the consumer, for whom little will be different next year.

Richard Needham, the British trade minister who has chaired the EC's single market council of ministers for the last six months, points to the following achievements:

- Massive reduction in bureaucracy; 60 million fewer official frontier check forms a year, with up to 10 million documents in Britain alone rendered unnecessary.
- British business to benefit by nearly £300 million over the next five years with the elimination of tax and frontier controls.
- The abolition of red and green customs channels.
- The prospect of a liberalised transport market ending high tariffs and poor services.
- Mutual recognition of professional qualifications.
- Removal of national bias in public procurement contracts.



Needham chaired the single-market council

□ Safety standards in food law which allow greater choice and the retention of home favourites, such as the British "banger".

The rub is that many of the claims are only half true and that the most obvious benefits are for businesses doing cross-border trade. Even here there is hardly mass rejoicing. "Nothing will change and the consumer will see nothing different at all," says Brian Young, chief executive of the British glassmaker Pilkington's European headquarters in Brussels.

"More paperwork will disappear and there will be more electronic data; we'll become more of a paperless society. It's become easier to do business in Europe over the years, and January 1 is just another date in that process."

Riders can be added to almost all of Mr Needham's points. A single market in transport is certainly not an immediate prospect. Europe's



SINGLE MARKET

airlines continue to be largely government monopolies well insulated from market forces and haulage companies will have to wait years before they can compete on an equal footing outside their domestic markets. Opening up public procurement (worth 16 per cent of the EC's annual £4.3 billion GDP) to competition is also a slow process.

The consumer's frustration is summed up by Virginia Graham, of the Union of European Consumers Associations (BEUC): "I think the European Commission can stand accused of misleading advertising."

Unice, the Brussels-based employers' federation, claims that EC border checks help to reduce the average speed of a lorry trip from Scotland to Greece to about 12 mph, "not much better than a stage-coach", says one official, who says transport efficiency will be doubled and that when lorries are permitted to pick up loads in other countries, roads should become freer of traffic. Such claims are hard to believe when it is still the case that in Belgium canals cannot be used on Sundays because the locks are shut.

Unice predicts that by 2000, the single market will be truly complete. It expects European competitors to have emerged to fight the Japanese domination of consumer electronics, but also predicts there will be fewer firms around. Mergers such as that between Volvo and Renault are just the start. The whole heavy engineering industry, once companies actually have to fight for government contracts, will be radically restructured.

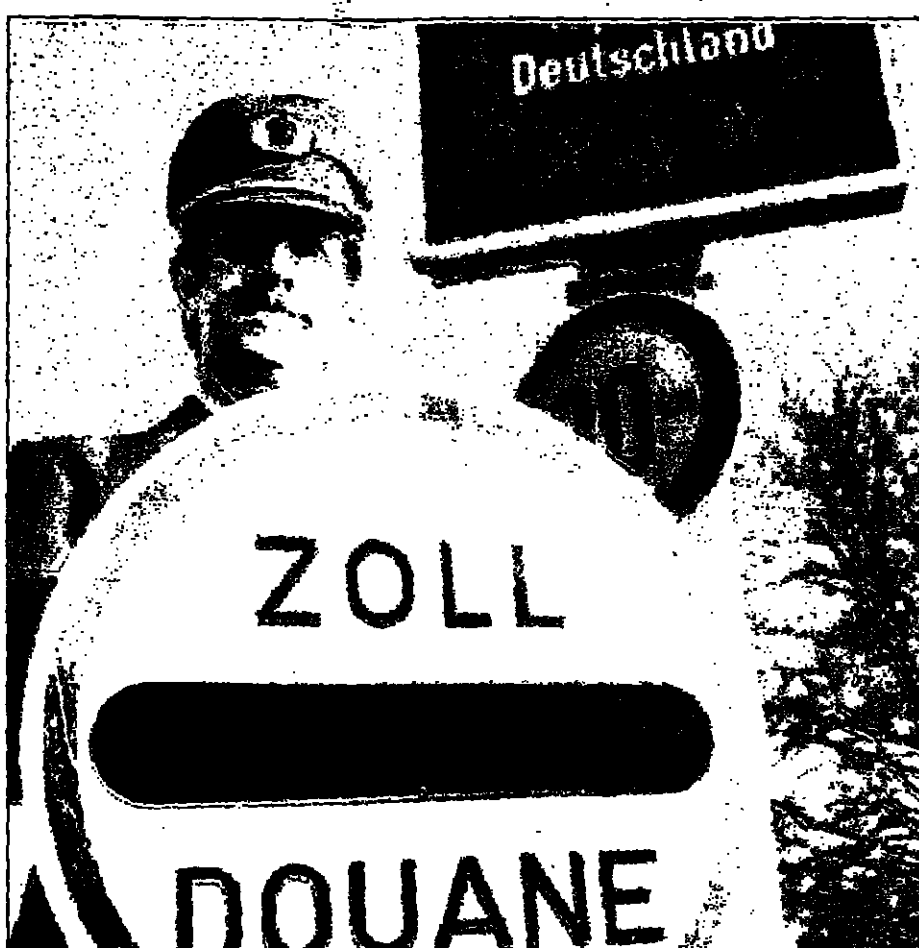
The consumer will have more choice and a more flexible interpretation of what exactly constitutes a "British" product, says Unice. Even if Jaguars are made in American-owned General Motors factories in Germany, they will be thought of as British because the designs will be shaped in Britain. Research and development money will be directed more closely, with industrial firms co-operating on big projects instead of trying to outwit each other over the same gadgets. Industrial development will follow the Japanese model.

Unice and Commission officials predict that government as well as business will be deregulated. They expect the economic impetus of the single market to lead to increasing regionalisation in Europe and a resurgence of

minority languages and local government.

Increasing economic freedom should help Europe achieve the federal goals of Maastricht. These same officials claim that between 1985 and 1990, the single market programme helped to create 15 million jobs in Europe as firms raced one another to make alliances and acquisitions, and third-country companies, notably Japanese, set up EC operations.

The single market has sparked panic headlines in Tokyo and New York, where fears of "fortress Europe" have risen again. Opinion polls show that EC citizens do not necessarily see the connection between establishing a single market and a politically federal Europe. But then neither did Margaret Thatcher, a profound Euro-skeptic who always supported the 1993 single market programme.



Signing off: a German customs officer heralds the single market by removing checkpoint warnings for motorists on the French/German frontier

## Sir Leon thwarted by a cartel too far

THE Consumers in the European Community Group reckon there is a 15 per cent chance of a single EC market in cars developing by 1995. Surveys by consumer groups pointing to price differentials of up to 40 per cent on the same models across the EC are already well documented, and certainly consumers will find few changes in the EC from tomorrow.

The car industry has proved a cartel too far for Sir Leon Brittan, the competition policy commissioner, who has left it with a few well-meaning codes of conduct but hardly a final *dénouement*. The system of exclusive dealerships, otherwise known as cartels, will continue until 1995 and beyond if makers can prove that price differentials are down to about 12 per cent.

One plus point is that at least new models should come to market quicker under a new single EC approval system that replaces the system of getting 12 different clearance certificates for each new car part. But even this remains voluntary until 1997.

Increased harmonisation of

cars will lead to some small changes on the EC's roads. The familiar sight of French cars with yellow headlights will disappear, replaced by cheaper white headlights. Catalytic converters will be obligatory on all new cars from January 1, and licence plates will be more standardised.

Japanese cars will still have restricted access to the EC

market, with an overall EC quota replacing national quotas. BEUC, the union of European consumers organisations, predicts a shortfall of small and medium-sized Japanese cars, as Tokyo takes up most of its quota with the more expensive executive models. Tariffs on a medium-sized Japanese car in Britain are estimated at about £2,000. Free access is not expected until the end of the decade.

Buying a car abroad will be made no easier, although the industry has agreed to publish comparative prices of models across the EC twice yearly, beginning in May.

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## EC laws cook up few surprises on shelves

THE many years of wrangling over prawn cocktail crisps, Bath buns and the like have taken their toll of the EC's food legislation, which will yield few surprises for the consumer from tomorrow.

Because of national governments' resistance to Brussels' wider ideas on harmonisation, supermarket shelves will be stocked with familiar produce from familiar sources, for the most part

labelled in the familiar way. Proposals on food hygiene, labelling and the use of additives are all incomplete for the moment. Instead, food will simply have to meet national minimum EC standards.

Consumer groups are wary of even these proposals reaching the statute book. BEUC, the union of European consumers associations, has said that if the present text on additives in food is adopted, some countries may be forced to accept certain additives for the first time. In the absence of any EC agreement on how to label goods, BEUC says that "consumers will be especially vulnerable in the single market".

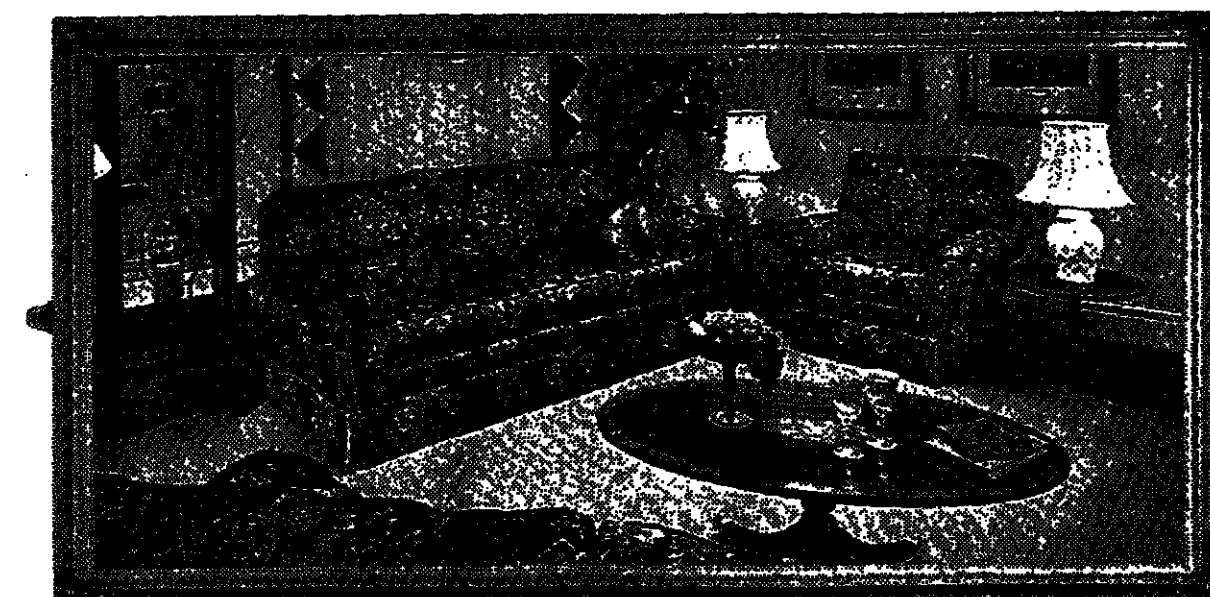
Consumer groups have also long complained about the costs of the Common Agricul-

tural Policy, which are passed on to the consumer in an extra £18 a week in taxes and food bills. "There will, unfortunately, be no change to this wasteful, inefficient and regressive policy on January 1," BEUC notes.

The consumer's ultimate saviour in the food sector could be the European Court of Justice, which has consistently argued that as long as a food is correctly labelled, it should be allowed across barriers. It has already established, for example, that Italy cannot block imports of pasta made of soft wheat rather than the classic durum wheat as long as the type of wheat is listed on the packet.

To meet French demands on the protection of foods, notably cheeses, EC law now records 32 cheeses that have *appellation d'origine contrôlée*. Roquefort must come from Roquefort, but a generic term such as Camembert has only limited protection. The Germans or the Dutch can produce Camembert, but not, for example, Camembert de Normandie, which must be from Normandy.

Another EC safeguard on food quality is that a product can be made anywhere, but only according to a specific recipe. That rule even extends to describing whether a tomato is grown outdoors.



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# Why the Serbian generals do not want a wider war



Boutros Ghali: starting to put on war-paint

WHEN even such normally placid characters as Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, start to put on war-paint, it is time to sit up and take notice. The mood of the international political class has swung decisively behind some form of armed intervention in former Yugoslavia.

The spur is not the daily horror of Bosnia — which has been burning for eight months, after all — but the idea that the fighting will spread elsewhere, igniting a Balkan and possibly European war. The core issues tend to get lost amid such feverish chatter. The first questions are: Is the war likely to spread? Do intelligence reports, political or military, really indicate that the Serbian leadership, or Serbian warlords, are preparing for such a step? The second matter to be addressed is how far military intervention could prevent such a general Balkan war.

*The West has misread Serb motives, writes Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent. The conflict will be confined to former Yugoslavia*



It is never possible to rule out the irrational as a factor in Balkan politics. But Serbian behaviour over the past 18 months has been guided by a consistent plan to create a Greater Serbia to replace the shell of Yugoslavia. That prompted the war against Croatia and the grabbing of a third of its territory last year. The vision is also propelling Serbian warfare in Bosnia.

There may be differences of opinion about the details — for example, which ports should be seized to give a sea outlet to the future Serbian state — but the blueprint is essentially the same. It is not at all clear,

however, that Serbia has territorial ambitions in Macedonia. Certainly there would be a terrible war if all interested parties — Bulgaria, Greece and Albania — were sucked into Serbian-inspired fighting there. But the nightmare scenario is not the most obvious one.

Kosovo, Serbia's southern province, is rightly regarded as a flashpoint since it strikes such a deep emotional chord for Serbs. Any threat, real or imagined, to the Serbian shrines there would certainly prompt Belgrade to send in troops. But again there are no immediate signs that Serbia is

planning to do that. The army is already overstretched in Bosnia to such an extent that the Bosnian Muslims have been able to scratch back some captured — and ethnically cleansed — villages right next to the Serbian frontier.

The most likely evolution of the war is to the north, not the south. For the Croats are determined to win back the land they lost last year and have told the UN protection force that they would like to leave Croatia by March. This time the Croatian army is ready for a much tougher fight. They have armed up and are well trained. Even if Bosnia is sliced up between Serbs and Croats, the Serbs will have to police their territory in Bosnia. The Serbian army may well thus enter the spring with two active battle fronts. That suggests the war will not spread outside the frontiers of former Yugoslavia. The Serbian ultra-national-

ists would like to continue expanding and, in their characteristic phrase, "make order" in the Sanjak — divided between Serbs and Muslims — or Kosovo. But the ambitions of Belgrade's generals do not yet extend to a Balkan war, or even a limited war with a weak power like Albania.

The fears of a wider war may thus have been exaggerated in the West. Sensible precautions — a large UN monitoring force in Macedonia, for one — can be taken but the focus should remain on brokering a peace between Serbs and Croats in a way that does not completely betray the interests of the Bosnian Serbs.

There is a case for armed intervention to reimpose the territorial integrity of Bosnia to enforce a peace while political solutions are worked out, and to deter further Serbian aggression. But the case for intervention is not being put

with any regard to military or political logic.

Not one politician is willing publicly to commit a large contingent of ground troops. Warren Zimmerman, the US State Department specialist for refugee problems, said yesterday that both the Bush and the Clinton administrations had "essentially ruled out the use of ground force".

Douglas Hurd, in a *Daily Telegraph* article, said that even non-interventionists were now considering the use of force against Serbia. But he then went on to confirm that nobody was willing to use ground force. He also dismissed air strikes as an "easy" option. It is difficult to see what kind of armed force Mr Hurd is contemplating. It may well be that Britain, won over to the "no-fly" zone policy, is dressing up that option as a display of Western resolve. For sure, the "no-fly" zone will be quite useful in chal-

lenging Serbian military power. It might even encourage the Bosnian Muslims — who are now reportedly massing south of Sarajevo, their besieged capital — to launch their long-awaited counter-offensive.

None the less, there is a discordance between politicians who are threatening the use of force and a level of force needed to achieve certain limited political objectives. President Bush, for example, has threatened to move military force against Serbia should it repress ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. That is his line in the sand. But anybody who knows anything about the Serbian psyche can see that the ultimatum is a declaration of war against Serbia. If that is what America is really considering, it does not appear to have told its allies. It would be a truly historical war, the first to be fought without ground troops.

## Belgrade says UN has only hours to stop Muslims' offensive

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT COSIC of Yugoslavia yesterday gave a warning that the United Nations had only hours to stop a Muslim offensive or he could not be responsible for the consequences. His implicit threat of Yugoslav army intervention in Bosnia came despite reports from the besieged Bosnian capital which indicated that no offensive was taking place and that fighting was no heavier than usual.

In Belgrade, Milan Panic, deposed as prime minister by parliament on Tuesday, refused to resign, saying that he had not been replaced consti-

tutionally and that he would continue to work until he was. In a letter to Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, Mr Cosic alleged that "Muslim forces have launched a general offensive from the broader Sarajevo area and especially from Mount Iman". He said: "Unless your intervention in the next few hours proves to be fruitful, we shall be unable to assume any responsibility for the inevitable consequences and this will undoubtedly paralyse our joint endeavours at ending the war." His statement came after Yugoslav military chiefs

had issued a warning that if the survival of Serbs in Bosnia were threatened then the Yugoslav army would intervene. On Tuesday, Mr Cosic chaired a meeting of Yugoslavia's supreme defence council, which ordered that unspecified measures be taken "in keeping with the present situation in Yugoslavia's immediate surroundings".

One measure is certainly the free transit of Bosnian Serb troops and equipment across Yugoslav territory. On Tuesday afternoon, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and soldiers entered Bosnia from the Yugoslav town of Ljubovija after having apparently driven down the Yugoslav bank of the Drina river from the Bosnian town of Zvornik.

Mr Panic said that only President Cosic had the authority to replace him. He accused his opponents of telling "horrendous monstrous lies" against him. He also said that the move, inspired by Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist, "reeks of Nazi Germany and the Jews. If we do not stop it now, we shall pay a high price later."

Parliament named Radoje Kontic, Mr Panic's deputy, as the new prime minister. In five months in office, Mr Panic has had no power to enforce his will, so insisting on staying in office for another week or two is unlikely to make any difference to the political scene in Serbia. Even if police try to evict him from his office, little is likely to change as Mr Panic was unable to do anything when the Yugoslav federal police were unceremoniously bundled out of their offices by their Serbian counterparts.

Mr Panic's move can only embarrass President Cosic. Last night Mr Panic claimed that he had the president's support but there was no confirmation of this from Mr Cosic.

Mr Seselj's party militia has been accused of involvement in the deaths of 3,000 Muslims at Brcko in northern Bosnia in the spring and of many atrocities in Croatia. A decade ago, a Bosnian Muslim intellectual accused him of being "aggressive, paranoid and pathologically destructive". Serbia waits to see.

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## Lack of consent sours break-up

*Sadness is the dominant feeling as two new states are born, writes Roger Boyes*

TONIGHT, at the stroke of midnight, two new states are born. But while there will be celebratory fireworks over Prague and Bratislava, the dominant feeling will be one of sadness for the Czechoslovak federation which did not even survive until its 75th birthday. Sadness, anxiety, uncertainty, even some guilt: for there is no popular consensus about the need for such a speedy divorce.

Czechoslovakia was the invention of emigre politicians who persuaded Woodrow Wilson of the viability of a dual nation at the centre of Europe. In 1938 when it was betrayed at Munich, in 1948 when the Communists took over, in 1968 when Warsaw Pact tanks crushed the Prague Spring, and again in 1989 when the country shrugged off Communism like an old coat, Czechoslovakia showed that it was a thinking, important nation.

Now it has been dismantled in six short months by the political classes. The main agent of destruction was Vaclav Klaus, prime minister of the Czech Lands. As Slovaks quickly discovered, Dr Klaus is not related to Santa Claus. Slovaks thought they were voting in June about the pace of market reform: weighed down with inefficient steel rolling mills and arms forces they wanted a much slower rate of privatisation.

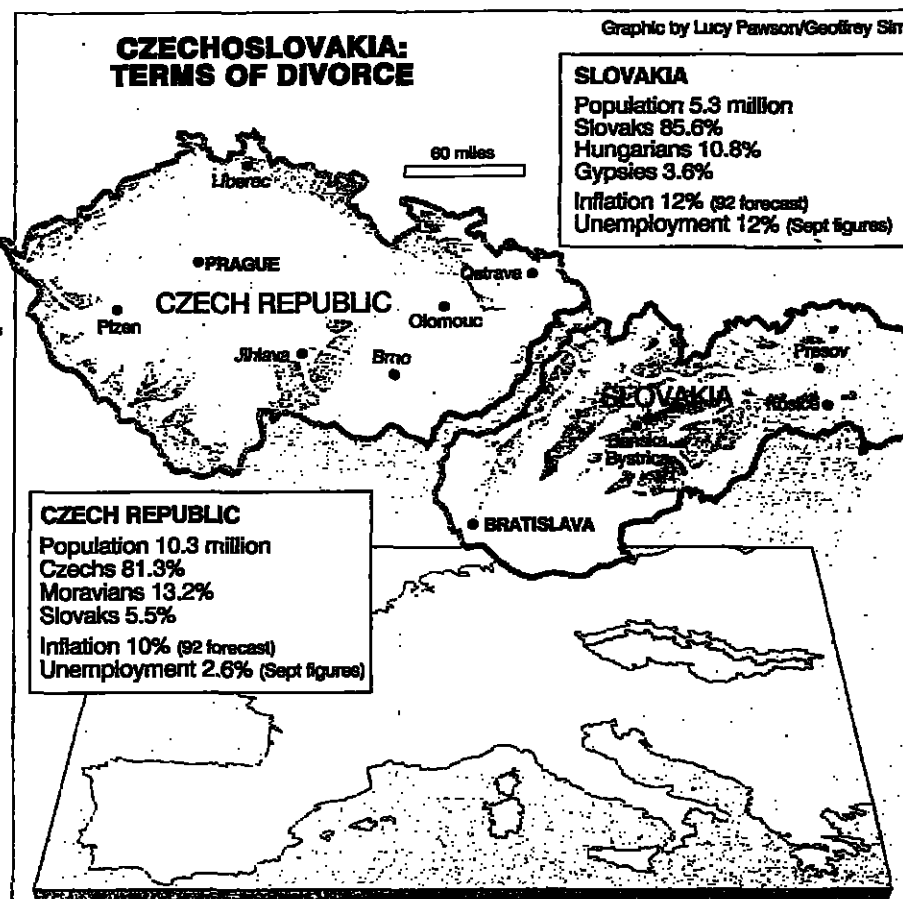
They returned Vladimir Meciar, an ex-boxer, and gave him a mandate to seek greater control of Slovakia's economy. Dr Klaus soon disillusioned the Slovaks. Economic independence, he argued, was tantamount to secession: Prague was not going to be trapped into paying subsidies for a break-away state. Czechoslovakia, he argued, should be scrapped as a bad, or at least, out-dated idea.

Ordinary Czechs and Slovaks are only just beginning to absorb the shock. They were not given the opportunity of voting in a referendum and the fate of their country has been mapped out over green baize tables by two power politicians. The village of Konecna, poised on the medieval frontier between the former Bohemian and the Hungarian kingdoms, is a useful barometer. It is just inside the Czech side of the border and though the border will be open, the village is afflicted by the problems of both Czechs and Slovaks.

At its crudest, there is the worried Czech who builds his weekend house on the Czech side of Konecna but his wooden outdoor lavatory a few yards away on the Slovak side. Will he soon need a passport before going to the toilet?

The customs house built by the Germans — who with great precision measured the frontier of the Slovak vassal state in 1944 — still stands in Konecna. There is supposed to be a customs union between Czechs and Slovaks — but how long will it be before the first trade war breaks out?

Most of the villagers expect a wave of smuggling. Slovakia will be a cheaper country because some price subsidies will stay in place, but even ordinary people expect inflation to take off and the economy to plunge. Many Slovaks are considering whether to register in



ALL CZECHOSLOVAK FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS DISSOLVE ON MIDNIGHT THURSDAY. THESE ARE THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS:

### 1. DIVIDED COMMUNITIES

Some towns and villages will be cut down the middle, dividing communities and families. Although four custom houses are being built, there is as yet no agreement on border checkpoints. Villagers might have to use a passport to go shopping.

### 2. ECONOMY

Both countries will temporarily keep the same currency. But how should the currency be split, at what value and when? The Czechs fear imported inflation from Slovakia. Should the country's assets be divided on a ratio of two to one, reflecting population numbers? Slovak banks are believed to

have placed assets in Czech banks. Who takes responsibility for national debt?

### 3. NATIONALITY

Who uses the Czechoslovak national flag? The Czechs want to use it, but the Slovaks oppose this. And who will sing the national anthem? Many people will cross the new border. 30,000 Slovaks have already applied for Czech nationality. While Slovakia will permit dual citizenship, the Czech republic will not. There are an estimated 300,000 mixed marriages.

### 4. ARMED FORCES

Who gets what? Slovakia anticipates getting 20 MIG-29s even though most of the airbases are in the Czech republic. Who gets which part of the army?

Moravia: perhaps buy small apartments there, so that they can eventually opt for Czech citizenship. Some 20,000 Slovaks, unable to find work in the tank factory at Martin, commute every day to Ostrava, the coal and steel centre of the Czech Lands.

But the malaise is not confined to Slovakia. Ostravian and other Moravian companies are having problems competing against cheaper Polish and Ukrainian coal imports and it is only a matter of time before this chunk of Czech industry is wound down.

Difficult times are ahead then for both new states. The assumption is that the Czechs will, of the two, be better off. Rapid privatisation is already changing the face of Prague and other Czech towns. There is a natural market — protector even — in Germany, which borders the Czech Lands: some even joke that Bohemia will become the new "East Germany".

That is not much of a joke. There is real concern about the future of the Czech identity which is only barely concealed in the debate about the name to be given to

the Czech part of Czechoslovakia. Vaclav Havel — who will probably be elected president of the Czech Lands next month — has spotted the problem: Dr Klaus has not. What is the Czech national interest? Can it really pose as the successor state to Czechoslovakia? The new Czech flag looks remarkably similar to the Czechoslovak one. The betting is that Czechs will feel rather lost for some years, like an accident victim who has had a leg amputated. The nerves will continue to twitch but there will be nothing down below.

The Slovaks have no identity problems. Slovakia is the culmination of a thousand years of poetry and myth making about an independent Slovakia. For a while, this will carry the Slovaks along. There are some quite sensible economic plans, including big incentives for foreign investors, and even some modest moves towards privatisation.

If things start to go wrong, if independence loses its charm, then the Slovak leadership could well make scapegoats of the 600,000-strong Hungarian minority. Relations are already tense between the two communities. The West should not therefore lose interest in Slovakia. It needs investment, help in building democratic institutions, economic advice — and close monitoring to ensure that independence does not lead to a rebirth of authoritarian rule. □ Prague: Czech customs officers shot dead a German woman, 19, when the driver of a car in which she was a passenger knocked down an officer at Svor, northwestern Czechoslovakia. (Reuters)



Act of betrayal: Chamberlain waves the 1938 accord which led to the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia

Letters page 17

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Opposition says Bonn has broken asylum pact

Bonn: The opposition Social Democrats in Germany, stung by the resignation from the party of Günter Grass, the author, have accused the government of bad faith over plans for limiting the number of asylum-seekers (Michael Biryon writes).

Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat (SPD) prime minister of Lower Saxony, accused Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, of breaking the hard-won agreement on December 6, under which the party would support a constitutional change to restrict the right of asylum. He said in a letter to the SPD negotiator that Bonn was undermining compromises over the status of victims of civil war, application procedures and the turning away of asylum-seekers from the borders.

Herr Seiters last night rejected the charges, and has already presented a draft proposal for the new laws to his Christian Democrat party. The dispute is likely to hold up the much-debated clampdown on asylum-seekers, now entering Germany at a rate of almost 500,000 a year.

### Reverse thrust

Tokyo: Japan is planning to build a test centre for fighter jet engines as the first step towards domestic production of military and civilian aircraft. The country has been reluctant to develop aviation technology since the second world war. (Reuters)

### Barter stops

Peking: China, longtime ally and trading partner of North Korea, said it is ending decades of barter trade. Last year China was the largest trading partner of North Korea, with £413 million in two-way business. (AP)

### Rabbani picked

Kabul: The interim Afghan president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, was elected head of state for the next two years in a ballot in which he was the sole candidate. He was hailed as the first elected Mujahideen leader of the Islamic revolutionary state. (Reuters)

### American freed

Zamboanga: Muslim bandits near this southern Philippines town released unharmed an American missionary, Gerald Fraszczak, after 68 days' captivity. Mr Fraszczak, 55, was freed in exchange for rice and sunglasses. (Reuters)

### Berlin ruling

Berlin: The Berlin regional high court ruled that Erich Honecker, the former East German leader who has cancer, must stay in jail although he will probably die before the end of his trial for killings along East Germany's border with the West. (Reuters)

### Angolan attack

Lisbon: A spokesman for Unita, the Angolan opposition movement, accused government forces of attacking two northwestern provincial capitals, Ndalatando and Caxito, which it seized after rejecting defeat in elections three months ago. (Reuters)

### Before the beak

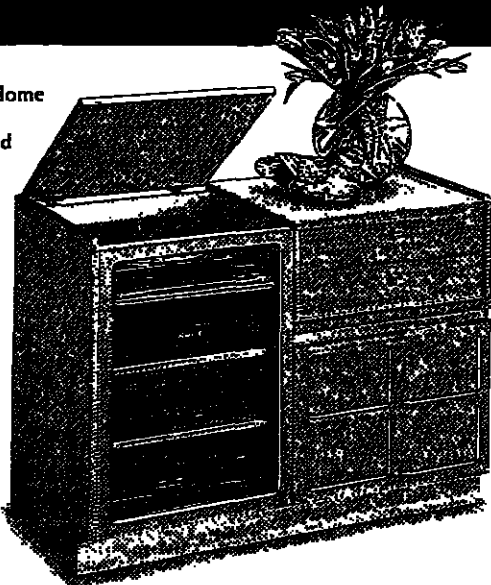
Amsterdam: A Dutch judge ordered a man to muzzle his cockerel or pay his neighbour 500 guilders (£180) every time that the bird crows. The judge ruled that the cock greeted the day with a cry "in excess of the normal proportions". (Reuters)

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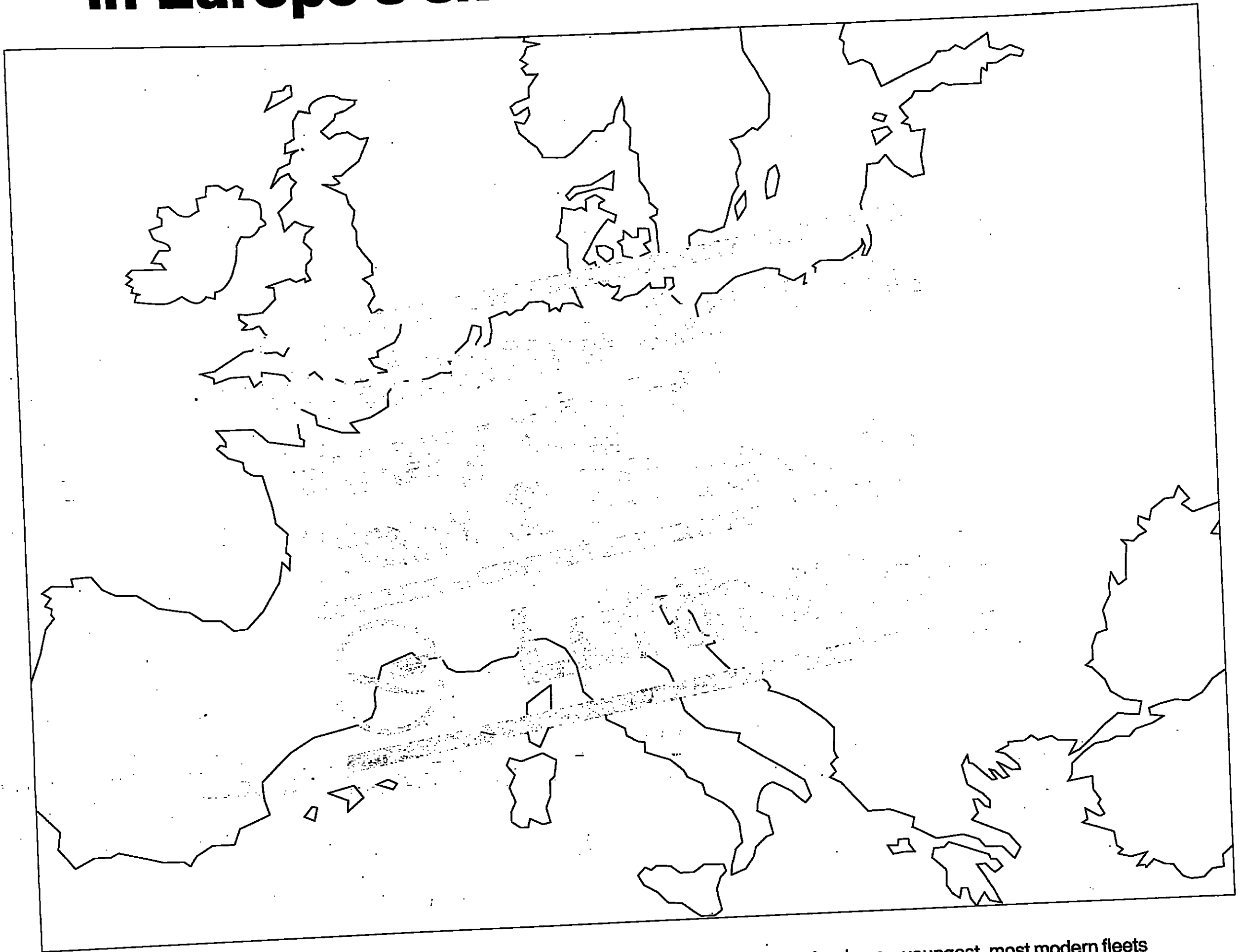
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## Lufthansa



# Final days of action win Bush quiet acceptance at home

■ Hardly a voice has been raised against the president's stance. But the mood may change when the body bags return

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush arrives in Somalia tonight to spend New Year's day with American troops. At the weekend, he will ensure his place in the history books by holding a summit with President Yeltsin of Russia in the Black Sea resort of Sochi and signing a landmark nuclear arms treaty.

While most outgoing American presidents spend their final days in office packing their papers and books, saying goodbye to aides and reminiscing about their presidency, Mr Bush has taken an active role. As American troops stepped up security in Mogadishu to ensure Mr Bush's safety, the president, who will stop over in Saudi Arabia to meet King Fahd before going flying on to Somalia, said in Washington that he had to show "the concern all Americans feel for Somalia".

In the past few weeks, Mr Bush has launched an armed relief effort in the Horn of Africa and threatened military intervention in the Balkans. As the war drums have been pounded in the Oval Office, the absence of any significant public criticism of the president's actions has been notable.

Fifty years ago, when America was on the brink of being forced by Japanese aggression to enter the second world war, Franklin Roosevelt had only to



Bush: hardening policy of intervention

mention the need to prepare for conflict to provoke frenzied opposition from Democrat and Republican alike. In anti-war vigils outside the White House the cry went up: "Why die for Danzig?" When the news broke earlier this week that President Bush had sent a diplomatic note warning the Serb leaders that a further spread of the Balkan conflict would provoke military retaliation by America, it hardly caused a leaf to stir on the streets of Washington. In the far Midwest or Deep South, the recruiting grounds for the men who would be the ones to fight in any conflict that broke out, no cry of "why die for Kosovo?" was heard. After an

election campaign that saw the defeat of a "foreign policy president" and his replacement by a Democrat promising to focus on America's domestic ills rather than on the problems of far-flung places, the seeming quiet acceptance of American "humanitarian intervention" in Somalia and the Bush administration's hardening stance, with the support of Bill Clinton, the president-elect, toward Belgrade, is striking. The "brigades" of Patrick Buchanan supporters, who cheered so loudly during the primary campaign the America First rhetoric of Mr Bush's challenger for the Republican presidential nomination, seem to have vanished, as have the deficit-cutters who warned to Ross Perot's criticism of the foreign policy accomplishments of Mr Bush.

Insularity and isolationism were at their post-1945 height this summer in America, as strong as they were in 1940 when FDR sought to prepare Americans for the second world war. Yet a mere two months after the election, and the opinion formers and the mass of people whose opinion they try to form, have not reacted in a way that most foreign journalists would have predicted. Admittedly, Christmas obscured for many ordinary Americans the news of overseas troubles and alarms but, even so, festive preoccupations and shopping mall visits are not enough to explain the absence of intense public questioning of the Bush doctrine of intervention.

Although the flags are not being waved with abandon yet over the prospect of "our boys" marching off to war, there is abroad in America an obvious pride, mixed with irritation at the pusillanimous European attitude that it is only America which is capable, militarily and politically, to act as the architect of the post-Cold war world. Already, the call to humanitarian arms that the Bush administration has been developing in its dying days has attracted an academic as well as a journalistic following, and in the unlikelyst of quarters, the theological faculties have been humming with debate about just and unjust wars. Father Hehir, a professor at the Harvard Divinity School, has announced he is to teach next term a course entitled "The use of force: political and moral criteria".

Of course, if or when the body bags start arriving back home from the Horn of Africa or the Balkans, the mood might change, leaving Mr Clinton brooding on the ironies of fate.

Summit at Sochi, page 1

## Arms proliferation confronts Clinton

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE START 2 agreement may bolster the reputation of a retiring American president and prop up a shaky Russian leader but it opens a new era of potential instability in world nuclear weaponry.

To make the deal stick, President Yeltsin must move quickly to ratification before his hardline opponents wake up to the fact that they are fast losing one of Russia's few remaining icons of international power and prestige. Under the agreement, Russia's stockpile of warheads would be 3,000 as against 3,500 for America in the year 2003.

In essence, two countries which no longer had much interest in attacking each other, under their present leaders, have yielded two-thirds of their nuclear capability to do so, and Mr Bush has only to collect his going-away present. President Yeltsin's own base against the hardliners may well have been strengthened but his tenure remains uncertain and any successor will still have a massive capability at his command.

In Bill Clinton's in-tray is the more pressing problem of proliferation as the rush to get nuclear expertise and capability at bargain-basement prices gathers pace. The president-elect's immediate problem will be with Ukraine — which is demanding \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) for the dismantling of the nuclear weaponry on its territory — and countries such as Libya and Iran who are determined to cash in on expertise in Russia, the former Soviet states and China. David Bolton, the director of the Royal United Services Institute, said: "If the Americans pay it will take seven years to dismantle the weapons, and if not it could take

ten years — and a lot can happen in that time." He sees the gesture by Washington and Moscow as a signal to the rest of the world that "we're doing our best by reducing our weaponry by two-thirds", encouraging others to follow suit.

But ensuring non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction will require intrusive inspection regimes and tough sanctions against those who do not comply, said Mr Bolton. He added that, with a nuclear-armed Russia on its periphery, Europe must retain some form of ballistic nuclear defence, and Europe might well explore the sort of mutual defence arrangement against such weapons now being negotiated between Russia and America. Beyond that, the West, and Britain, must retain a minimum nuclear deterrent against the Saddam Hussein of the world. That would have to be aircraft-borne — and visible "on the BBC and Cable News Network", he said.

□ Moscow: Russia said yesterday it was tightening controls on exports of materials and equipment with possible nuclear uses to prevent the destabilising spread of atomic technology. Anatoli Krasikov, a presidential spokesman, said the government was introducing a system of licences to regulate the export of nuclear-related substances and technology. Mr Krasikov said: "Russia wants to adhere strictly to its obligations on non-proliferation of nuclear technology." The export controls affect eight categories of exports, covering not only nuclear equipment but also a range of "dual purpose" items, with nuclear and non-nuclear uses. (Reuters)

## BABRI MOSQUE DEMONSTRATION

Rally and march to protest against the destruction of the Babri Mosque and the ongoing oppression of Muslims in India.

London, Sunday January 3, 1993  
Rally: Hyde Park, 11.30am  
March to Indian High Commission:  
leaving Hyde Park 1pm

The Babri Mosque Action Committee UK  
(Supported by all major Muslim organisations)  
Tel: 071 388 2581/071 387 2157/081 558 6399/  
081 572 8960/021 773 0019/ 0203 444504/  
0924 451857/0860 259289 (mobile)



Democratic hull: Kenyan poll officials in Nairobi taking a break from counting ballot papers for the presidential election. As first results showed a clear lead for President Moi, the opposition alleged there had been vote-rigging

## US imposes Mogadishu clampdown

FROM REUTER  
IN MOGADISHU

AMERICAN troops searched vehicles in Mogadishu for arms and tightened their grip on the airport yesterday in a clampdown on gun rule before President Bush visits the battered Somali capital today.

They said weapons would be banished from the southern port of Kismayu and took control of a key road bridge near Mogadishu. Military police stopped vehicles at checkpoints in the city centre. At the airport, where Mr Bush will land, soldiers set up machinegun posts and positioned an armoured assault vehicle outside the gates.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Ritter said: "We are taking every precaution needed to ensure that this is a safe and successful visit for our Commander-in-Chief."

Shootings and looting are still common in the devastated capital, despite a peace deal last week between the city's two main warlords and the presence of the US-led humanitarian intervention force. Mr Bush is due to spend the night on an amphibious assault ship and visit the towns of Baidoa and Bali Dogle.

## Opposition issues warning to Moi over 'rigged' poll

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

TWO of Kenya's leading opposition parties yesterday issued a warning that they would bring down any government which took power in rigged elections as results showed a clear lead for President Moi.

Jacob Mutula, legal adviser to the Democratic party, said that his party was considering withdrawal from the elections because of what he called widespread vote-rigging. "We may take other and more effective methods of making sure that Kanu [the ruling Kenya African National Union] cannot run the country if they take power in this way," Mr Mutula said.

Oginga Odinga, leader of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya, said that he was also considering withdrawal and would be meeting to discuss the move with Mwai Kibaki, the Democratic party leader. The two parties also alleged that the other main opposition group, Ford-Asili (Original), led by Kenneth Matiba, was the beneficiary of Kanu's alleged attempts to rig yesterday's ballot.

Foreign observers said that they had been shocked by widespread irregularities at

polling stations and counting centres all over the country. They have yet to make an official statement.

In the central Nairobi constituency of Starehe, an election official was attacked by a mob when he attempted to bring a box of ballot books and loose ballot papers into the counting centre at the Jamhuri High School. Many of the books had been stamped with the electoral council's seal which meant they could be marked and entered into the count.

One person was killed and three injured in Mombasa when paramilitary police fired on a crowd which had surged around a car they suspected of bringing in extra ballots late on Tuesday night. There were reports of violence in cities throughout the country.

Police also fired into a group of demonstrators in Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria, when a crowd had gathered to protest at slow counting of their votes and accused election officials of packing ballot boxes with votes for Kanu and Mr Moi.

Results from 34 of the 198 constituencies were in by late afternoon yesterday. Mr Moi was in the lead with 342,930

votes to 266,853 for Mr Matiba, his nearest rival.

Mr Matiba was a long-time political detainee under Mr Moi. He was released last year after he suffered a stroke as a result of torture and spent 11 months being treated in London.

He had a strong showing in Western Province, traditional heartland of the Luhya tribe who support Martin Shikuku, his vice-presidential running mate, and appears to have been winning cross-tribal support. Both Mr Matiba and Mr Kibaki are Kikuyu but the division of the Kikuyu vote among the two presidential hopefuls did not appear to have damaged Mr Matiba.

□ Accra: The National Democratic Congress of president-elect Jerry Rawlings is set to sweep Ghana's parliamentary election, winning 89 of 92 constituencies declared so far, according to electoral authorities. The four main opposition parties shunned the election. Ghana's first parliamentary poll since 1979, because of alleged vote-rigging in last month's presidential vote. The pro-government National Convention Party won two seats and an independent took one. (Reuters)

## Britain hands over EC reins with honour salvaged

Money traders are poised to put another spoke in the wheels of the Community's rotating presidency as the UK bows out. George Brock, European Editor writes

mons, but that came as no surprise to governments elsewhere in Europe. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, rode out pressure to punish Mr Major for delaying ratification until the Danes held a second referendum. Pierre Berégovoy, France's prime minister, dispatched a swift note all but bowing one of his over-excited ministers who

had attacked the UK presidency as a catastrophe. M Berégovoy's government had squeaked through its own Maastricht referendum only weeks beforehand. Herr Kohl saw that the British government kept changing its mind because the Commons destabilised Mr Major and Mr Hurd's authority. Both government and Euro-sceptics

walk on shaky ground: government whips are still not sure of their majority and the sceptics have no agreed alternative to Maastricht.

But the money traders dealt the presidency even harder blows. The autumn of 1992 will be recalled for the near-disintegration of the exchange rate mechanism, which enters 1993 still perforated by the cross-fire in the money markets. Just before sterling and the Italian lira were pushed out of the ERM, finance ministers meeting under Norman Lamont's jaundiced chairmanship failed to reconcile their differences over ex-

change and interest rates. The Chancellor's evident lack of remorse at the shambles and pleasure at sterling's devaluation was as damaging to Britain's diplomatic leverage inside the EC as any of Baroness Thatcher's most notorious outbursts of the past.

Britain's diplomatic weakness would not matter if the government was certain that the ERM would collapse and be replaced by no other mechanism for ironing out the fluctuations between Europe's strongest and weakest currencies. Mr Major and Mr Hurd know that while overinflated hopes of a European single

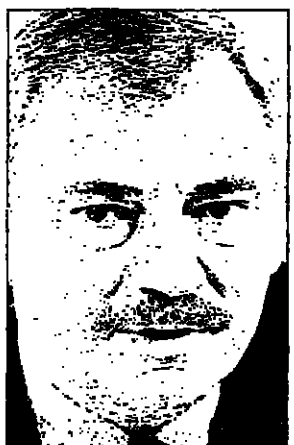
currency have been dealt a colossal blow by the recession, ratification debates and the flux in the markets. But they also know that hopes of co-ordinating — if not necessarily merging — the continent's key currencies burn strong.

The Edinburgh summit simply by-passed the issue. By the end of April, a report by experts on the operation of the ERM will be ready for finance ministers. That will coincide with the probable opening of the second Maastricht referendum campaign in Denmark.

Market challenge, page 7  
Leading article, page 17

## Danish extrovert prepares for the presidency

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT  
IN COPENHAGEN



Ellemann-Jensen: is confident of 'Yes' vote

UFFE Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's foreign minister, is confident his country will approve the Maastricht treaty next year. "I know I wasn't too good at predicting the result last time, but frankly I expect a big 'Yes' now," Mr Ellemann-Jensen said. "All the opinion polls back me up and seven of parliament's eight parties are behind Denmark's opt-out deal on Maastricht."

He believes that those who voted to approve the treaty last time but saw their cause rejected will stick with their convictions. "Denmark will be there when things move, but Maastricht-style European union will not come in this century. If Denmark voted 'No' again it would have to leave the EC for good, and if the United Kingdom decided to follow suit, both countries would be out of the

European mainstream ... and that would be a disaster."

When Denmark takes over the six-month presidency of the European Community from Britain at midnight tonight and with it the job of introducing the single market, much of the burden will fall on the extrovert Mr Ellemann-Jensen, 51, a political science graduate from Copenhagen university, who worked as a television news presenter for five years before briefly becoming editor-in-chief of the business daily Børsen in 1975. He entered politics in 1977 and became leader of the Liberal party in 1984. He has held the foreign affairs portfolio for longer than anyone since the second world war.

"I hope when the Danish presidency is over we will have dealt with all the heaviest issues including enlargement, initiating membership negotiations with Sweden, Finland and Austria, so

that we can strengthen, improve and give more balance to the Community."

"On Yugoslavia, we must not give up trying to find a diplomatic and political solution. Limited military action by the West may be necessary to protect the humanitarian aid effort but I do not believe a full military intervention is practically possible. It might spark a full-scale war in the Balkans."

Mr Ellemann-Jensen also wants to create greater openness in EC affairs and plans to start television transmissions of the meetings of the EC Council of Ministers. "It is important to take the myths and mystery out of the EC. It's going to be dull stuff but if it helps to demystify the workings of the EC, so much the better. It was fears of bureaucracy and ignorance of the functioning of the EC that sparked the Danish 'No' and the French 'near no' to Maastricht."

## US allows two novel ways of treating cancer

By Nick Nuttall  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

TWO novel forms of cancer treatment, one based on a bark extract and one on genetic engineering, have been given approval by the US government, it was disclosed yesterday.

Taxol, a substance extracted from the rare Pacific yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*, has been licensed for use in the treatment of ovarian cancer. Its approval is likely to bolster research in Britain, where scientists are attempting to make similar drugs from the leaves of the English yew.

The federal Food and Drug Administration also approved the use of genetically modified cells to treat a terminally ill woman with a brain tumour. The researchers, based at the San Diego regional cancer centre in California, are expected to begin the pioneering treatment on Monday.

The decision to approve Taxol marks a 30-year crusade by Monroe Wall, chief scientist at the Research Triangle Institute in Raleigh, North Carolina. Research shows that Taxol binds to cancer cells blocking their ability to reproduce. Bristol Myers Squibb, makers of the drug, yesterday announced they are seeking approval of its use in Britain and other European countries.

The decision, which could also pave the way for Taxol to be used on cancers of the lung, neck and head, offers hope to British researchers at Leicester University and the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology studying the English yew. This species, *Taxus baccata*, contains a substance called baccatin III. It has no cancer fighting properties but is similar to Taxol. Research indicates that it can be chemically turned into Taxol, which could greatly increase its availability. Up to 20 other promising compounds are also in the leaves, which could lead to more cancer drugs.

The treatment of cancer with genetically engineered cells also marks a shift in policy by the US government and the National Institutes of Health. Novel medicines, gene treatment methods normally require a lengthy approval procedure but in this case approval was given on compassionate grounds.

The patient's treatment, developed by Ivor Royston, senior director at the institute, involves taking cells called fibroblasts from the woman's skin and inserting the gene for the production of interleukin-2, a protein that is critical in triggering production of the body's cancer killing T-cells. Millions of these modified cells will be reproduced and injected back into the patient.

It is hoped that the modified cells will go to the sites of the brain tumour, and the cancer cells will be attacked. Doctors will monitor the progress of the patient using brain scans.







## Ten tips towards a new year of majesty



**Anthony Holden offers the Queen some gentle advice for survival in 1993**

■ **1 No more self-pity.** In her "annus horribilis" speech, and again in her Christmas broadcast, the Queen sought to elicit public sympathy for the many woes which befell her family in 1992. They were as nothing, however, to the woes endured by so many of her subjects: from unemployment, homelessness, bankruptcy and/or repossession of their homes, to trouble making ends meet. Few other British divorced, moreover, are cushioned by so much wealth.

■ **2 Treat the Princess of Wales properly.** The princess should not be seen as a troublesome daughter-in-law, she is the most popular woman in the world, embarking on an ambitious international career, eager to overtake the Prince of Wales in the *gratias* stakes. She wields huge influence over the degree of public affection for the monarchy. The royal family misuses her at its peril.

■ **3 Take the Prince of Wales in hand.** A strong-minded major-domo should be imposed upon the prince's private office to override his whims, harness his undoubted qualities, and bring to his public work the sharper focus which would give it some clear purpose.

■ **4 Reorganise the royal finances.** Whatever taxes the Queen agrees to pay, she is bound to be criticised over those she will continue to avoid, probably capital gains, and certainly inheritance tax. No other British citizen is excused these taxes.

The solution is a Royal Commission to assess the monarchy's public and private wealth, and clarify the distinction between the two. The private assets should then be fully taxed, like any other family's, and the public wealth converted to a charitable trust from which the monarchy is financed, thus dispensing with its public subsidy. The extent of all Crown assets, as opposed to the Queen's, should also be made public.

■ **5 Banish the rest of the family.** If the "lesser" royals are to be axed from the Civil List, they should also be encouraged to return to private life and earn their own living. For the Queen to finance them — from her own inflation-proof public subsidy — is a

continuation of the Civil List under another guise. The Princess Royal, for instance, could become a properly salaried president for Save the Children, with the Duke of York living off his Naval salary, Prince Edward, like any other well-educated young

### Does she want her family to be thought of as ordinary people?

man, should be finding for himself in the job market.

■ **6 Re-read Walter Bagehot.** The celebrated "constitutional historian" (in truth a rather snobbish journalist) defended the monarchy not for itself, but as a way of blinding *hot polloi* to the true workings of the British establishment. "The Monarchy", he wrote, "gives a vast strength to the entire Constitution, by enlisting on its behalf the credulous obedience of enormous masses."

Many of Bagehot's precepts contain home truths the Queen should still find useful (not just the old saw about letting in "daylight on magic", which should now be banned from use by all newspaper leader writers). Hide this one from Prince Charles: "The only fit material for a constitutional king is a prince who begins early to reign... The case is worse when he comes to the throne old or middle-aged. He is then unfit to work."

■ **7 Disestablish the Church of England.** It's in a frightful mess, anyway. The Queen should sever her connections with it, and free herself and Prince Charles from the embarrassment of being its Supreme Head. Most churchmen say the title doesn't mean much, anyway. Let Carey & Co defend their own faith.

■ **8 No more tourist industry.** The Queen should try to persuade the royal family's apologists to stop trotting out

tourism as the best defence of the institution of monarchy. Is there really no better argument for the hereditary principle?

The other day I asked an American if her fellow countrymen would still go to watch the Changing of the Guard if there were a president in the palace rather than a monarch. She said no. But what, I asked, if it were President Thatcher? She said yes.

■ **9 Make up your mind.** Does the Queen want the royal family to be thought of as ordinary people like the rest of us — or doesn't she? There are pros and cons to either course.

Most ordinary families go through all those marital strains, leading to divorces and remarriages, which excite unusual (and perhaps unfair) interest when they happen to royalty. But ordinary people also pay taxes imposed by law.

Ordinary people don't have private yachts, trains and planes. Why not hand *Britannia* over to the navy, and set an example by travelling on regular trains and planes? Otherwise, however much tax the Queen pays, the royal family is still going to look like a subsidised elite quite out of touch with the times.

The real problem, of course, is that the Queen's subjects can't sort this one out, either. Half the time they want to see the royals as ordinary people like themselves, with similar problems; the other half they want them on a pedestal, symbolising all their aspirations.

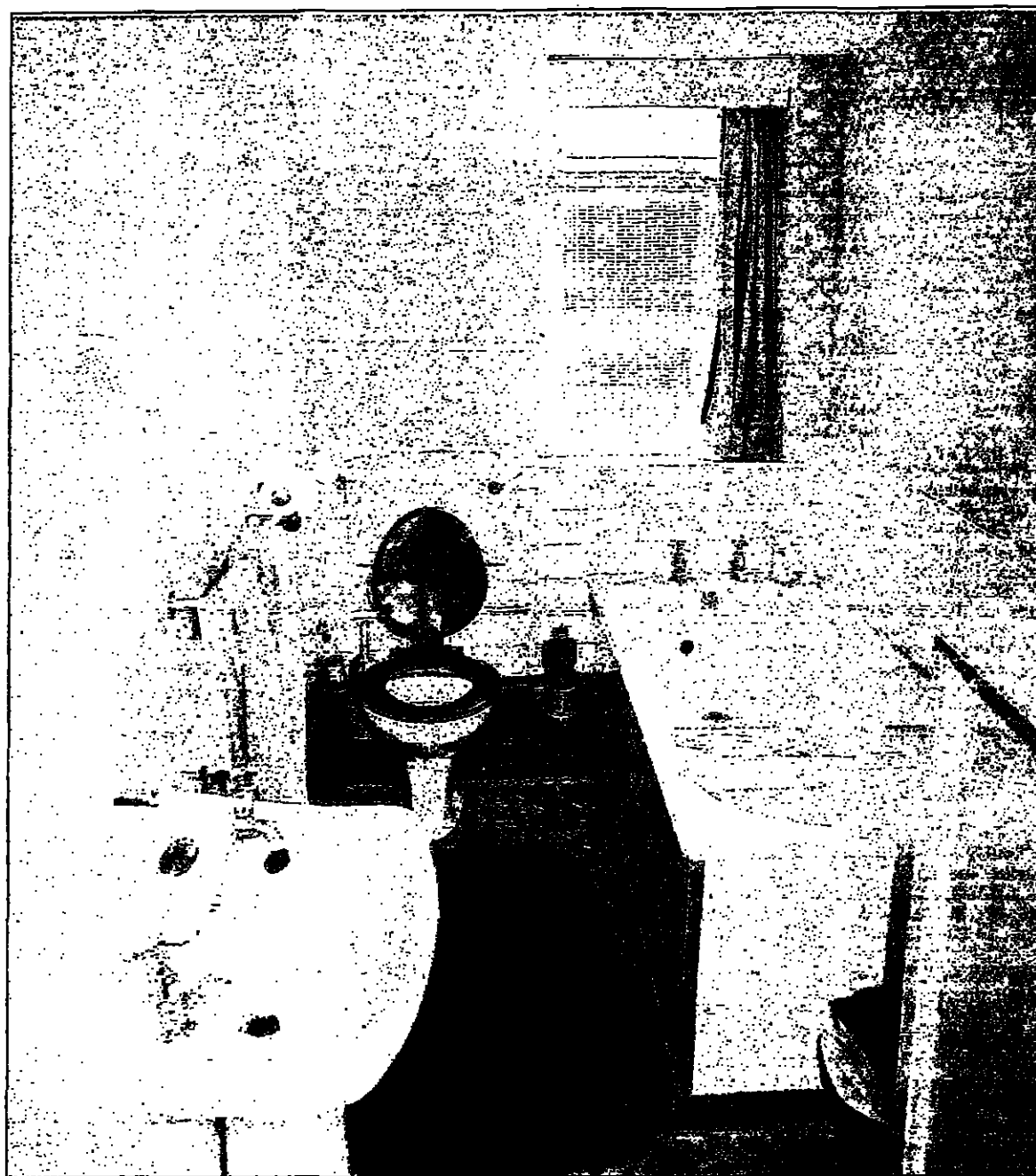
Bagehot was right: they need to be told what to think. It is time for the Queen to take a lead on this one.

■ **10 Study the Maastricht Treaty.** If the Queen were to scan the small print of Maastricht, she would see that it reduces her to a mere citizen of Europe, with a vote in the European elections — the thin end, surely, of the republican wedge.

The monarchy's constitutional mandate rests on the readiness of the British people to remain subjects rather than citizens. The main lesson of 1992 — the year that deference died — is that their patience may be running out faster than the Queen or her courtiers advisers yet realise.

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## Michael Dynes explodes 20 years of European myth-making



From the European apocrypha: lavatories, cucumbers and lawnmowers have all featured in stories about Eurocracies which have made the headlines

Undaunted by the claim that lies can travel half way around the world before truth has had time to put its boots on, officials in Brussels have created a "Euromyth" unit charged with stamping out those silly but entertaining tales about bureaucrats on the rampage.

Equipped with a staff of one, the new unit, formed last month, plans to take aim at the newspaper editors and broadcasters who have kept us amused for years with tales, frequently unfounded or misrepresented, about European Commission attempts to ban dogs in pubs, abolish sawdust on butcher's floors, and prohibit the sale of round cheeses.

Europe's new myth finder general is, however, likely to find himself facing something of a labour of Sisyphus. Euromyth-making, while particularly prolific in Britain, is by no means a British monopoly. The Commission was, for example, recently accused of trying to abolish the Spanish title — the accent over the "n" — the account over the "n" in *España*. But the British have come to adore the sport,

## Brussels finds a mything link

and are unlikely to give it up without a struggle.

Commission officials, tired of being the butt of British humour, say the unit was created out of exasperation. "We just got fed up with all these Eurocracies circulating in the media unchallenged," says Robert Elphick, an EC spokesman in London. "We have allowed the Community to be kicked about for years, and now we have decided to kick back."

One of the first indications of a change in attitude came in a speech given in November by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Mr Hurd pointed out that the Commission "is often used as a whipping boy for the sins of others". Indeed, officials in local government,

the public utilities, and Whitehall, have been known to "blame unpopular regulations on some imaginary edict from Brussels", Mr Hurd said.

Previously, the Commission had been very complacent about challenging such tales. Moreover, government ministers were not themselves above blaming unpopular measures on new EC directives. No one seemed particularly troubled that the Community had, in the process, become a bit of a laughing stock. But Denmark's decision to reject the Maastricht treaty changed all that.

In future, media claims that "barmy Brussels bureaucrats" have embarked on this or that act of folly will be dispatched to the myth finder general's of-

fice, where they will be checked out. A brief summary of the allegation, along with an explanation of the proposal or legislation in question, can then be sent out to the Community's offices throughout Europe. They will then suggest clarification. The initiative has the enthusiastic backing of Jacques Delors, the Commission president, who has long complained of what he describes as Europe's *déficit d'information*. But it is doubtful whether the myth finder general will ever have much effect.

A similar initiative was launched by the Commission's London offices shortly after Britain's accession to the Community in 1973. In those days our newspapers were filled

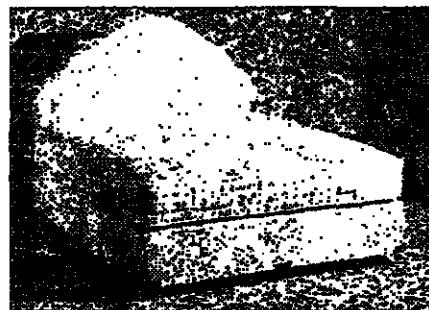
with lurid tales about Brussels trying to phase out district nurses because they did not exist on the Continent, ban the use of King Edward potatoes because of the threat of potato wart disease, and stop the sale of Bramley apples because their curious shapes and sizes did not meet EC standards.

Newspaper editors had a field day with stories about malevolent bureaucrats plotting to stop the sale of doorstep milk, and prevent boys and girls from taking up paper rounds. Both of these hoary tales are still in circulation today, two decades later, proving beyond doubt that the facts are rarely allowed to get in the way of a good story.

Once a rumour gets under way, however (such as the claim that Brussels was trying to harmonise male and female lavatories) journalists have no choice but to follow it up. There is always the chance that it might be true. Below are some recent Euro-stories, almost all of which have appeared in the public prints. They amply illustrate the difficulties of sorting myth from reality in Brussels.

## VI-SPRING

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USE THIS VOUCHER IN STORE TO CLAIM YOUR EXTRA £50 DISCOUNT

- 1 New EC hygiene regulations require fishermen to wear hair nets while working. True/False
- 2 Under recent single market legislation, Christmas trees can be traded across frontiers only if they are symmetrical in shape with regularly spaced needles. True/False
- 3 According to the recent EC directive on jams, carrots must be classified as fruit. True/False
- 4 Because of new safety regulations, charity shops such as Oxfam and Age Concern are prohibited from selling second-hand toys. True/False
- 5 Under new EC health rules for milk products, traditional French cheeses such as unpasteurised Camembert will be banned. True/False
- 6 Brussels tried to ban traditional methods of hanging turkey, pheasant and other game birds, complete with gentry-decomposing entrails, on the grounds that they were unhygienic. True/False
- 7 Dangerous products, including inflammable foam-filled furniture, can legally be sold in Britain from January 1. True/False
- 8 Brussels tried to ban the sale of prawn cocktail and tomato ketchup flavoured crisps. True/False

- 1 False. A new directive, effective from January 1, does impose stringent hygiene standards on staff who process and package fish and on workers aboard factory vessels. All have to wear suitable head cover to prevent hair contaminating the fish. But this does not mean wearing hair nets.
- 2 False. There are no EC regulations standardising Christmas trees. The Western Europe Christmas Tree Growers' Association is, however, attempting to introduce new categories for marketing purposes.
- 3 True. But only for the purposes of making jam. This is so that the Portuguese, who traditionally make jam from carrots, can continue the practice.
- 4 False. All toys placed on the market for the first time must display the new CE mark, signifying that safety standards have been complied with but second hand toys are excluded from the directive.
- 5 False. All raw milk, heat-

- 9 Fishing boats are required to carry a minimum stock of 200 condoms to ensure that fishermen have "safe sex". True/False
- 10 Brussels attempted to introduce a blank tape levy on audio and video tapes. True/False
- 11 Boys and girls will be forced to give up their paper rounds because of plans by Brussels to introduce a new directive protecting young people at work. True/False
- 12 British oak cannot be used to make Euro furniture because Commission officials have ruled that it is too knotty. True/False
- 13 New regulations lay down the permissible degree of curve and depth of colour for cucumbers. True/False
- 14 Because of new food hygiene regulations, the Royal Navy's tradition of stirring Christmas pudding mixture with wooden oars will be illegal. True/False



Euro target: will charity shops be the target of new safety legislation?

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- 15 New Eurosnow rules will ban skiing where the depth of snow is less than 20 centimetres. True/False
- 16 Brussels is trying to abolish milkmen and the tradition of doorstep milk deliveries. True/False
- 17 New Eurokool rules require all newly-installed cisterns in Britain to flush 7.5 litres of water. True/False
- 18 Bath buns, York ham, Cheddar cheese, and Brussels sprouts, will respectively have to come from Bath, York, Cheddar, and Brussels. True/False
- 19 Brussels has banned the manufacture of lawnmowers which do not meet specified noise emission standards. True/False
- 20 New European safety regulations require firemen to replace their traditional yellow protective trousers with EC-approved blue trousers. True/False
- 21 Brussels is drafting new regulations to decentralise the musical scale. This will involve the creation of a new department to re-score all existing classical music. Some pieces may have to be extended or cut to fit. Work is expected to begin with Mozart. The project will take 15 years, and should provide work for thousands of unemployed musicians. True/False

- as a plot by Brussels to stamp out doorstep milk.
- 17 False. The new regulations, which come into effect on January 1, have been laid down by British water bylaws. They have nothing whatsoever to do with Brussels.
- 18 False. However, the Commission has extended the "appellation contrôlée" system from wine to foodstuffs to protect certain products whose quality or reputation is attributable to a specific location or process.
- 19 True. Common noise emission standards for lawnmowers were introduced in an effort to prevent countries protecting their domestic lawnmower industry from external competition with specious noise standards.
- 20 False. Common standards for fire fighting equipment and clothing are being introduced, but existing equipment and clothing can be used.
- 21 Who knows what myths will be manufactured in 1993?

### ANSWERS

henceforth fulfil a variety of quality standards, including curve and colour, in an effort to promote efficient packing and marketing.

14 False. The new hygiene directive simply states that materials in contact with foodstuffs should not transfer their constituents to foodstuffs "in quantities which could endanger human health".

15 False. The European Commission has made no such proposal. The European parliament has, however, called for restrictions on alpine ski resort development where snow is less than 20 centimetres deep, in order to prevent further damage to the alpine environment.

16 False. Faced with the threat of legal action for protectionist trade practices, Britain was forced to allow the sale of French UHT milk. But the move was presented in the media

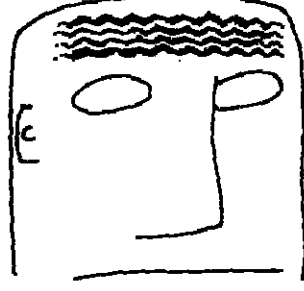


## A sting mostly in the tale

NO DOCTOR in Britain wants to add dengue to his or her differential diagnosis when confronted with a patient with a high fever, a rash accompanied by bright red hands and feet, a splitting headache and severe joint pains. But alarmist reports suggesting that the arrival in Britain of the aedes mosquito — which carries the dengue virus from person to person — constitutes just such a danger seem misplaced.

The mosquito larvae have been imported in the stagnant water that collects in the tyres of old cars brought to Britain for reclamation. In the Far East, where aedes is traditionally established, the mosquito also breeds in small pools of water, whether lying in gutters, flower pots or even in holes in the stumps of trees. The mosquito in recent years has spread to Africa, South America, the Caribbean and even North America.

Whereas simple dengue fever, more picturesquely known as breakbone or dandy fever, is



an unpleasant but not usually dangerous experience, children can suffer a more severe form, which can be fatal. This is called dengue haemorrhagic fever, in which the blood-clotting mechanism is damaged, and bleeding can occur in the skin and internal organs.

The risk of infection in Britain is minuscule. We may soon have to bear with the nuisance of being bitten by another variety of mosquito, but there is no danger of dengue fever from this, unless the mosquito has previously bitten a patient suffering from it, which is a highly unlikely event whether in central London or rural Norfolk.

## On the trail of a killer

DR DAVID FOREMAN, from Oxford, and Professor Timothy Oliver, from the Royal London Hospital, have been cast as Morse and Lewis as they attempt to solve one of the greatest medical mysteries of recent times. The problem to be solved is: why did the rate of testicular cancer start to rise at the turn of the century and why has the rate of increase so accelerated that the incidence has nearly doubled in the past 20 years?

Each year, testicular cancer kills 150, mainly young men (for although it can affect any age, most patients are under 45) and is life-threatening to another 1,000.

Professor Oliver said recently that 94 per cent of all cases of malignant disease of the testes treated at the Royal London between 1986 and 1988 had now survived the necessary time for the assumption of a cure. He had every hope that this cure rate would continue to improve as expertise, both in surgery and in the three drugs used — bleomycin, carboplatin, and etoposide — in different combinations, continued to progress.

Thirty years ago, the majority of patients died and even today, the treatment is likely to be more successful



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttard

only if started early. Professor Oliver therefore fights a relentless campaign to increase men's awareness of the importance of any change in the size or shape of their testes.

Patients should not necessarily attribute any change in shape to a blow, because often an injury serves to draw attention to a testis already diseased. Nor should they be misled by the presence or absence of pain — testicular tumours can be, but are not invariably, painful.

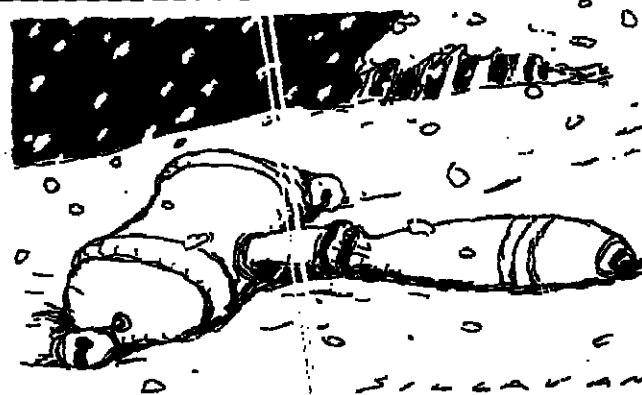
Research into testicular size has led to the discovery of a possible clue to the cause of the mystery. Those testicles which develop malignancies are often, before the disease starts, smaller than normal even if not actually atrophied. In some cases, the atrophy has been due to mumps, in some to damage

following an injury or partial twisting, in others to a mal-descended testis. The testes should migrate to the scrotum around birth, but if one is left behind in the abdomen, it has a 20 times greater chance of developing cancer.

The investigating team is working on the theory that a testis which fails to function efficiently because of partial atrophy is spurred on to greater efforts by the over-production of two pituitary hormones, FSH and LH, which control its activity, and it is an excess of these hormones which are responsible for later malignant change.

Anxious young men can forget tight pants as a cause of cancer. They may reduce fertility but have been cleared of the charge of inducing malignant change. Similarly, the sedentary worker who sits all day with his genitals hunched up is now known to be at less risk, provided he exercises daily. Was it all mother's fault? A school of thought blames the mother's hormone balance for their son's later testicular problems.

There is evidence that the mother's hormone levels in pregnancy may be relevant, but it is their level of testosterone, rather than oestrogen, as had previously been thought, which is the key factor.



## Bringing baby out of the cold

HAD two boys not been searching for golf balls on a Nottinghamshire course, "Christopher", the new-born baby abandoned in the frosty undergrowth, would have died of hypothermia.

Babies withstand cold less well than adults as they have a large surface area for their size and reflex systems that in adults can improve heat production and conservation are not yet developed. Babies cannot shiver. Shivering may not seem a vigorous activity, but it

raises heat production fivefold. Babies have to rely on an increased metabolic rate of the brown fat stored on their upper back to guard against cold. But once this has been used, they are defenceless. The battle may not be won even after the hypothermic baby is placed in an incubator because, as the infant's temperature rises, so does its blood sugar fall, which can result in hypoglycaemia, and possibly coma.

A hypothermic baby's ruddy complexion can easily mislead doctors. Oxygenated, bright-red, stagnant blood suggests health. The best method is to use a low-reading thermometer to take a rectal temperature.

Tonight, millions will eat, drink... and possibly go down with food poisoning. Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on how to avoid a nauseous new year

## When an army marches on your stomach

ON Boxing day night half my family was writhing in agony. Those who could not find a lavatory bowl were vomiting into plastic buckets. As my father pathetically put it, "It felt like something rotten inside me was trying to get out of both ends as fast as possible."

None of them had drunk too much and none had flu. We concluded they were victims of the oysters they had all eaten 36 hours earlier in a restaurant where we had gone on Christmas day to give my mother a break. Given that she was up the whole of the following night, armed with a mop and a bottle of disinfectant, it was just as well.

The restaurant said that one member of staff had succumbed, but claimed that it was because the oysters were very rich, rather than contaminated, an improbable excuse to anyone who had witnessed my cousin vomit almost non-stop for eight hours.

All over Britain similar scenes were taking place, as hundreds of people felt the after-effects of seasonal celebrations. According to Dr Ken McGeehan, a locum registrar at the infectious diseases unit at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds,

the festive season sees a rise in reported cases of food poisoning as people gorge themselves on a variety of exotic foods. In addition, "They spend more time than usual at parties and there is more reheating of leftovers. So the chances of infection increase."

Dr McGeehan says. Despite an education programme and legislation to improve general standards of hygiene, 61,462 cases of food poisoning were reported to the public health authorities in 1992, an increase of more than 10,000 on last year. This is in addition to the thousands of cases which were treated at home.

Although most people recover quickly from the experience, with only a few lost pounds to show for it, some elderly people have died from the severe dehydration which can result.

Food poisoning is the result of eating food or drinking water that is contaminated with bacteria, viruses or toxins. The incubation period before a reaction can be as long as 48 hours, but when bacteria such as staphylococcus, which is transmitted during food preparation, are involved, people will feel it almost immediately. This was the probable cause of George Bush's collapse in the middle of a banquet in Japan last January, although he politely attributed his sickness to gastric flu.

According to Dr McGeehan, staphylococcus is the main cause of food poisoning epidemics, which sometimes occur after wedding feasts or any other type of mass banquet, because it grows on warm food and survives reheating.

The organism thought to be responsible for up to 70 per cent of all other cases of food

poisoning is salmonella, which is found in all foods of animal origin: meat, milk and, most notoriously in this country, eggs. The other main offender is campylobacter, which is transmitted by birds pecking at milk bottle tops, and can also be found in contaminated beef and chicken.

The foods with the worst reputation for poisoning are oysters and mussels, although Dr McGeehan says this is undeserved: "All foods carry risks, you cannot single one out as being more dangerous than another." However, the fact that oysters are often served raw means that any bacteria present will not be killed off by cooking, which is when most foods are made safe.

Purification processes usually remove any bacteria from oysters' gut tissue but viruses, which live in the tissue and come from sea water contaminated by sewage, cannot be killed off, although environmental health checks make sure that oysters are bred in water as pure as possible. Raw oysters should be served alive and should have been stored in melting ice. In Southeast Asia, however, all oysters should be avoided, as organ-

isms absorbed by shellfish in that part of the world can be deadly.

British seafood suppliers and restaurateurs are rightly indignant at having to take the blame for every festive bout of sickness, saying that before they point an accusing finger at how much they had to drink, they should think about how much they had to eat. They have picked up while kissing under the mistletoe the night before.

Some British oyster farmers claim that sickness is usually an allergic reaction, which can be spotted because it will come on suddenly, usually accompanied by a rash. John Bayes, the manager of Seacroft Shellfish in Whitstable, Kent, who sold 30,000 oysters in the week before Christmas, more than double his average weekly figure, says: "My men eat oysters straight off the beach, but they've had enough of them over the years."

Christopher Kerrison, the manager of Colchester Oyster Fisheries, thinks, unsurprisingly perhaps, that the answer is for everyone to eat more oysters. "We ought to eat a few every day to build up our resistance," he says. "We live in a sterile world, increasingly so since American ideas about hygiene were taken up by the EC. We need to build up our antibodies to infection. If we

are too clean we will keel over every time we encounter a bug."

Folklore has it that food poisoning strikes when people eat out but, according to Dr McGeehan, this is not the case. "Logically, if we prepare our food at home, we have a greater say about hygiene. But most bugs are actually contracted in our own kitchens," he says. "They say it must have been something they ate in a restaurant and don't connect it with anything they made themselves. There have been outbreaks from food outlets, but they are uncommon, because the law is so strict."

Nonetheless, revellers who do not want their new year festivities to be blighted are advised to avoid food to which they have reacted badly in the past, along with any dish which may have been reheated, or is undercooked, such as tortillas or beef stroganoff.

People should also beware of buffets or salad bars where food may have been allowed to stand out of the refrigerator for some time.

Cold meats which have been left out in the warm are especially risky, as is anything containing raw eggs. Ideally, food should be screened, to prevent flies, dust and bacteria landing on it, and should not be kept near doors, under heating fans or in direct sunlight, where it will be subject to temperature change. Other measures include storing meat under a drip tray in the refrigerator.

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Feathered fiend: a blue tit pecks open the top of a bottle of milk, an everyday sight across the country, and a possible carrier of dangerous bacteria

for example, because they are probably not strong enough to cope with any bug lurking there that a healthy child would throw off."


Once the illness is over, a sufferer's thoughts may turn to compensation. According to Rebecca Evans, a barrister with the Consumers' Association, customers poisoned by restaurant food can claim damages. "If you know for certain that it was the food, then the restaurant is in breach of contract. It is obviously negligent to serve contaminated food," she says.

The difficulty lies in providing proof that the food, rather than the wine or a coincidental bug, was the culprit. Restaurants are cagey about food poisoning, many strongly deny that their hygiene or suppliers could be at fault, preferring to blame their customers' lack of sophistication. Marie-Jeanne Collins, who manages Café Fish in central London (not the restaurant at which my family dined), says: "If you are brought up by the sea as I was, you will not get this problem. It has everything to do with your everyday diet. If you only eat certain kinds of foods you will react badly to new kinds."

Anyone with a suspected case of poisoning should first get a doctor to ascertain the cause of illness and then contact an environmental health officer through the local council. He or she can then visit the restaurant's kitchens and identify a possible cause. The ideal is to have a sample of the food consumed, whether as a leftover or in its regurgitated state — although Ms Evans admits that someone struck down is unlikely to have the presence of mind to keep a sample of vomit aside.

If the case can be proved, then technically the customer can sue. "It would be a very lengthy and costly business to sue for damages, but with proof on your side you would be in a very strong position to settle out of court," Ms Evans says. "In fact, you could drive a pretty hard bargain."

Even if there is no hard evidence, circumstantial proof — such as everybody in the party falling ill on the same night — should be adequate grounds for a refund and apology. My family is still waiting for news of how, and if, the restaurant intends to compensate us — for the four bottles of disinfectant we got through, and a sleepless night.



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In an exclusive interview with Anatole Kaletsky and Peter Riddell the Chancellor maps out his plans

## Lamont's sparkling new year



To tax or not to tax? Lamont outlines his strategy to Kaletsky and Riddell at the Treasury

For people outside the Treasury, 1992 may have seemed like an *annus horribilis* for the British economy, but Norman Lamont has no apologies or regrets. The Chancellor enters the New Year brimming with confidence, both about his own position in John Major's government and about the economic prospects. The main political event of the past year, he feels, was not the government's retreat from the ERM, but its triumph in winning a fourth successive election. In that victory, Mr Lamont believes that his 1992 Budget and his attacks on Labour tax policy played a crucial part, second only to "the factor of John Major himself".

He rejects all speculation about his political future. Asked about reports that he might move from the Treasury in a new year reshuffle, he replied: "I enjoy the job hugely, and I have nothing else in mind, thank you. Frankly all these speculations are just made in the media. I've known what the position has been all this time — I've never been in any doubt that I would deliver the Budget."

If Mr Lamont is confident, both about his personal position and about the economy, it is in part because of the Autumn Statement, which he believes did all that was necessary to get an economic recovery finally under way.

"There is every reason to believe that 1993 will be much better than 1992. I would not be surprised if 1992 in the British economy were better than in some of our European competitors. In Britain, as elsewhere, the real barrier to economic recovery has been a lack of confidence, which was, of course, damaged further by the shock of sterling's suspension from the ERM. But since then, we have taken a number of important steps which I believe have created the right conditions for confidence and growth."

The three-point cut in interest rates and the sharp fall in sterling since Black Wednesday has produced a "very substantial" easing in monetary policy. And with many

mortgages not yet adjusted downwards, "a significant boost to spending power — perhaps two-thirds of the impact — is still in the pipeline." The Autumn Statement also offered help to sectors that had suffered most from recession — housing, construction, and manufacturing. "Those measures were designed to lift confidence and thus to foster growth, and judging by the very warm welcome they received, there is every chance that they will succeed."

But Mr Lamont's bullishness does have its drawbacks. Many businessmen and economists have called for further reductions in interest rates in the new year, yet he seems unconvinced by their pleas. "If monetary demand was plainly too low, and growth of nominal GDP was manifestly too low, then I think we would consider an easing of policy," he said. But what does he mean by "manifestly too low"?

If the economy performs in line with the Treasury's forecasts, which show a 1 per cent recovery next year, will there be any expectation of a change in interest rates? Mr Lamont replies with an emphatic "no". And does he believe that the Autumn Statement measures will prove sufficient for the forecasts to be realised? The Chancellor feels confident that they will.

Looking back on the past year's turmoil in monetary policy and the foreign exchanges, Mr Lamont is equally sanguine. "The exchange rate mechanism has existed since 1979 and it has brought enormous benefits to its members. This country too has achieved considerable benefits for much of the time sterling was in the ERM. Mr Lamont feels more confident than ever that British policy was not to blame for sterling's forced withdrawal."

The main fault-line was not so much in the mechanism itself, but in the divergence between the requirements of German monetary

policy and our own requirements. We can now see the issue more clearly, and subsequent developments show that what happened was not the result of a unique British problem. Those pressures are still there, though one can anticipate a time when they might disappear."

As for the speculation that British withdrawal from the ERM might encourage an inner core of European countries to move towards an even tighter monetary union, Mr Lamont is unperturbed. "If a number of countries agreed to observe narrower margins, I believe the implications for Britain would be limited provided Britain managed to keep its inflation rate close to that of the hard-core group. That is precisely the objective we have set ourselves. The key determinants of whether we suffer or whether we prosper are whether we stay competitive against the rest of the community and whether Britain remains an attractive location

for inward investment. We intend to achieve both."

Mr Lamont also appears relaxed about external pressures on the British economy in future. The growing current account deficit has been identified by many private economists as the most serious constraint on economic growth in the medium term. But the Chancellor disagrees.

I don't believe we will have difficulty in financing our deficit. I'm not indifferent, obviously, to the trend of the current account, though I don't regard it as my major problem. Insofar as I'm concerned by it, that is yet another reason why we should act, over the medium term, to control the public sector borrowing requirement."

It is the PSBR that keeps recurring as the biggest challenge that will face the Treasury in the medium term. "We have to refocus on the size of the PSBR," he says, acknowledging that part of the

increase in public borrowing cannot be explained away by the recession. "There is clearly a level of public borrowing which, if it continued over the medium term, would be profoundly unsatisfactory. It would lead in a comparatively short period of time to our debt to GDP ratio rising."

Mr Lamont notes that Britain is fortunate in having reduced its public debt ratio very sharply during the 1980s. Even after a few years of large borrowing, Britain's debt to GDP ratio would still be below that of most countries in Europe. But "having worked so hard in the 1980s to establish this very healthy position, it would be very wrong to throw it all away."

What, then, should be done about the PSBR? The Chancellor does not accept that the government's spending plans are unsustainable. "The remit — to keep real growth of public spending within the trend growth of the economy — was chosen precisely because it is

sustainable. We have made some tough decisions on spending. What matters is the political will of the government. I believe that will exist and will continue to exist."

But if public spending is to remain on the course charted in the Autumn Statement, eliminating the PSBR as the economy recovers — a goal Mr Lamont reiterated in his interview — will surely require higher taxes?

The Chancellor will not comment directly on this point, but he does rule out other possible ways of closing the budget gap. He strongly rejects suggestions that middle-class tax reliefs and social security entitlements should be radically overhauled. "I don't accept for a moment that all tax allowances are a middle-class welfare state. That's rubbish. Sensible tax allowances just let people keep a bit of their own money."

As for social security, Mr Lamont stresses the government's intention to stick to its manifesto pledges, including raising the basic retirement pension and child benefit in line with inflation. Asked whether unexpected events since the election might require such commitments to be modified, he replies bluntly: "We've got to keep our manifesto promises."

But the manifesto also promised to "make further progress" in reducing the basic rate of income tax, so aren't the options for deficit reduction limited to raising national insurance contributions (an income tax increase in very thin disguise) or raising more from value-added tax?

Mr Lamont will not comment on these options, but when it is pointed out that ministers have consistently refused to rule out the possibility of extending VAT to items such as food, fuel and public transport, he acknowledges that this is true.

Of course, extending the scope of VAT, apart from its political unpop-

ularity would make it harder to continue reducing inflation, which Mr Lamont stresses again and again as his overriding objective. After leaving the ERM, bearing down on inflation has become more important than ever. "I am determined to get inflation down to the bottom half of the target range of 1 to 4 per cent."

But how can such low inflation be guaranteed once the economy begins to pick up? The answer is clear: the Chancellor must continue to use his best judgment, with the help of Treasury advice.

Mr Lamont has no time for critics who want monetary policy transferred to an independent Bank of England or some other body outside the Treasury. "It is a mistake to believe that changes in the institutional set-up can solve the problem of fighting inflation. Giving the bank responsibility for monetary policy would not create any new instrument. I believe the moves to much greater openness in monetary policy, which I have already described, will enhance accountability, and will give the markets greater confidence that our decisions are being made in a way which is consistent with our inflation objectives. I very much doubt if changing the status of the bank would add much to this."

As for the Treasury's new advisory panel of outside economists, Mr Lamont is even more blunt. "The main aim of the panel is to provide an independent analysis and forecast of the economy, which should also help to break the idea that the Treasury, good as it is, has some kind of monopoly of wisdom in this area. I would not have set the panel up had I not been keen to hear what it had to say, though I read the members' views already. The decisions — and any credit or blame — stay with me!"

There can now be no doubt about who is responsible for economic policy, whether it succeeds or fails. Clearly Mr Lamont expects his policies in the new year to be more successful than in 1992.

## Prayers of poison

Bernard Levin on how religious fanatics undermine decent society

There's no pleasing some folk, not even when the matter concerns the proper precedence governing people to be murdered. This tragedy of the two Indian temples in Ayodhya, razed to the ground with mutual bloodshed that has already brought well over 1,000 deaths, has now taken a new and darker turn. The Indian government has announced that it will build both a Hindu temple and a Muslim mosque on the site of the original destruction and killing: only a judgment of Solomon, not only because the Hindus and the Muslims are up in arms against the proposal, and India will be lucky if the arms are only metaphorical.

The first intimation that two ghastly horses are being looked in the mouth came from the Hindus. Their World Council insists that they must be allowed a new temple on the site of the original, which was dedicated to the god Ram. So far, so good: there is, it seems, quite enough land to accommodate both the temple and the mosque. But the Hindus demand the whole of the site, arguing that it is sacred to Ram. Meanwhile, however, the Muslims have also denounced the government's plan, saying that it is "playing with the sentiments of the minority" (Hindus in India outnumber Muslims by nearly eight to one).

It is tempting to quote Shakespeare — so tempting that I shall succumb to temptation: "A plague of both their houses". But we cannot do so. For the reason is that the Hindus and Muslims are not only in a state of mutual hatred, but they are also in a state of mutual fear. We can measure our own fear, for we can be thankful that Anglicans do not murder Catholics, nor do frenzied Baptists set fire to the conventicles of Methodists. An over-the-top religiousness would that we might make our religions as seriously as they do in India.

No one knows how many Indi-

ans died in the slaughter that accompanied and followed partition; it is very unlikely to be fewer than a million. That should have taught India how to live in harmony, after all, it had lived in harmony through most of the years of the Raj, and even the independence struggle was waged with remarkable restraint on both sides, not only because Gandhi would not have it otherwise. But it is clear now that, over the years, religious fanaticism in India has thrown a mighty shadow over the entire state.

Are we entering a new age of religion? Not long ago, I dropped a tiny stone, wondering whether anyone would pick it up, though nobody did. I said that before seven years were out this country would have enacted legislation which in some undramatic ways would curb the activities, including the religious activities, of British Muslims.

Not a day passes now without a newspaper or broadcast referring to "fundamentalist Muslims", and more often than not the story concerns some violent action by them. But there is a catch in it: fundamentalist Islam is shaking the Muslim states themselves and, with the exception of Pakistan, they are becoming more and more alarmed by the actions of the fanatics. (A year or so ago the Algerian government rigorously suppressed Algeria's fundamentalist movement, but only yesterday there came news that the government is likely to fall, and to fall to the fundamentalists themselves.)

True, all religions have fanatic fringes; there are fundamentalists in the Church of England, insisting that every word of the Bible is the literal truth (including all the

contradictory genealogies in the begat business), and it must be the — or devil's own job for Archbishop Carey to refrain from banging a few of them over the head with his crook. Even the Jews are at it: there is a bunch of them in Jerusalem who stone dead cars of passers-by driving past them on the Sabbath, and another lot who insist that they are in the wrong country.

But some go much further. Not long ago I wrote about a murder case in Britain, in which an 18-year-old girl from a Muslim family was killed by her brother; she had been associating with an English boy, non-Muslim, whom they murdered too. I quoted, and I quote it again now, a newspaper heading over the murder story, which read "Muslims in Britain have been divided by the murder of Sharihan Bibi, 18, by members of her own family as a punishment for adultery".

If you stop and think about it, that must be a remarkable division: it can only mean that some Muslims in Britain think that a bloody double murder by a pair of fanatical swine is a horrible and wicked thing, but that other Muslims in Britain think that such an occurrence is not a horrible and wicked thing presumably — indeed, inevitably — because the victims, though they had broken no law of this country, had transgressed certain religious taboos and were therefore fit only for slaughter.

The two murderers were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. Now tell me how long you think it will be before there is a serious demand for the enactment

of legislation giving Muslim citizens certain rights of punishment — though not capital, to be sure — over their co-religionists. Perhaps, indeed, my soothing — of restrictions on Muslim activities — will first come true just as my seven years are up. But if it does come true, be sure it will not do so in the form of Dr Siddiqui and his press-cuttings album; it will be somebody not at all ridiculous, and truly dangerous.

I have strayed far from Ayodhya and its future, if any. If I have discussed the Muslims primarily, it is because they now loom larger than other religions, but if there is one thing that history can be sure of, it is that for every Reformation there is a Counter-Reformation, and the rise of Hinduism, in its present fanatical and violent Indian form, will surely tilt the dam-our in a different direction, before another Reformation tilts it back.

Happily, English religion had its bloody and violent period centuries ago: nobody will commit murder because of the NEB (more's the pity), or even in an argument about the ordination of women. A few paragraphs ago I suggested that we would be better off if we took our own religion more seriously; by now, I am much less sure. Surely, Christ, Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Lao Tse and all the other great teachers, must weep when they see their messages of love flung on bonfires, while intolerance, anger, hatred, cruelty and violence stalk the world; if you want irony that one, surely, is the greatest of all.

Or perhaps the second greatest. From independence, India has insisted that it is a secular state: any worship is permitted, but the state itself has no religion. Tell that to the builders of the new Ayodhya: for that matter, tell it to the demolition squads who will follow hard upon.



## Chalker makes mark

AS JOHN TUSA clears his desk at the BBC World Service for the last time today, colleagues are putting their money on Baroness Chalker as his most likely successor. Having lost her Commons seat at the election, the overseas aid minister and deputy foreign secretary is thought to be looking for a career away from politics.

The job of managing director of the World Service, whose funding comes from the foreign office, would be the ideal challenge for Chalker, who has been spotted recently in the corridors of Bush House, it would also fulfil John Major's desire to see more women in top public jobs.

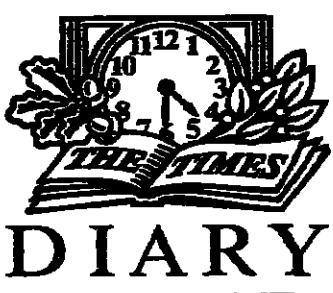
Chalker is by no means home and away. Her husband, editor of news and current affairs for BBC Radio, and Patricia Hodgson, head of policy and planning at the BBC, are thought to be in the running.

The departure of Chalker from the foreign office, following the recent announcement of Tristan Garel-Jones's resignation, would leave a vacuum at the top of the organisation. Chalker and Garel-

Jones are both staunch allies of the prime minister and he will have trouble recruiting such experienced foreign hands to two of the most important jobs outside the Cabinet.

One solution would be to give the overseas aid post to Baroness Chalker, his close friend, who was made a privy counsellor in today's Honours list. It would put Chalker, an education minister, within striking distance of the Cabinet and would have the benefit of maintaining the status quo in terms of the ratio and seniority of ministers in the Lords and Commons.

David Heathcoat-Amory, deputy chief whip, is being tipped for the post of minister of state with responsibility for European affairs. If he gets it, it will be the second time he has stepped into the shoes of Garel-Jones, who was previously deputy chief whip. But Heathcoat-Amory's promotion is not assured. Stephen Dorrell, the treasury minister, and John Redwood from the DTI are both ripe for promotion. Dorrell, a protégé of Lord Walker, would fit into the rarefied atmosphere of the foreign office reasonably well. What the mandarins at



King Charles Street would make of the arch-Thatcherite Redwood remains to be seen.

### Gong gang

THE elevation to the House of Lords of Shirley Williams completes the reunion of the original SDP Gang of Four. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank will be delighted to make room on the red leather benches for their former colleague, Lord Owen, busily trying to bring peace to the Balkans, is still to bury the hatchet with his former colleagues following their merger with the Liberals.

Jenkins, leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, says: "Shirley has nearly come to the end of her Har-

vard University commitment. We hope that she is going to be in the Lords a very great deal. She is an extremely valuable recruit."

Williams is expected to be offered a job on the front bench before long. Indeed, when Jenkins decides to take a less active role he may well look to her as his successor. "Certainly at some stage I will wish to divest myself of this. The thought has crossed my mind as to who might take over but it would be silly to talk about that now."

### Wedding bells

THE announcement yesterday of the engagement of Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of News Corporation, to Elkin Pianim marks an especially happy ending to 1992. In March Andrews Kwame Pianim, Elkin's father and a leading Ghanaian economist, was released from prison after serving nine years of an 18-year sentence. He had been accused of plotting to overthrow Ghana's dictator, Jerry Rawlings. In an interview after his release, Pianim said: "Conditions in prison are difficult at the beginning when you are used to being your own man. Sometimes there were about 30 in

### Better to wail, Jonah

JAMES Jonah may have discovered, to his cost, the first rule of diplomacy. Jonah (left), the UN special envoy who has been in Israel to intercede on behalf of the Palestinians stranded in no man's land, now knows not to smile too broadly. Reporting on his progress, Swiss television broadcast a news report showing a group of Palestinians standing ankle-deep in snow. As the reporter announced that Jonah had appeared to have had little success, the camera panned to show Jonah apparently laughing heartily in the company of Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Rabin (right), who seemed no less amused. Diplomatic eyebrows were raised in Geneva.



a cell. All you have is your little corner and your bed but it shows you that a man does not need that much to survive." Since his release he has been rebuilding his life in Accra with Cornelia, his Dutch wife.

### Midnight mystery

CARLTON Television executives have been looking forward to tonight for the past two years. At the first chime of midnight the new

television station starts broadcasting to viewers in London and the southeast. But despite months of planning Carlton still does not know whose face will be the first to grace the screen. There is a chance it will be Ken Johnson, of the Viking Society in Islington, or Dave Ell, a fly fisherman from Walslow. Then again it might be photographer Terence Donovan. They, along with scores of other ordinary Londoners, will act as a logo for Carlton. A spokesman for Carlton

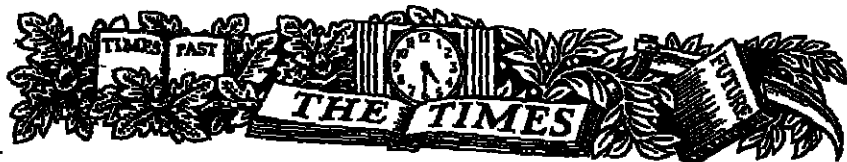
says: "We had thought it would be Chris Tarrant, who is hosting A Carlton New Year, but we have decided to precede the programme with one of our identification people."

Whatever sceptics might say about the honours system, Britain is a nation of gong-lovers. A new national service medal is proving so popular there is now a two-month waiting list to buy one. Sixteen million people who registered for civilian national service during the second world war and more than five million postwar conscripts are entitled to display the £24.75 cupro-nickel bauble.

"When we were feeding them... not needing them."







## TRUMPS FOR HONOURS

Five modest proposals to restore honour to the honours system

So here to bring in the New Year comes another honours list of the old sort: hierarchical, huge, craftily networked, a pretty pyramid of baubles to reward the boys and girls who have pleased their political masters. As a former government whip, John Major may be reluctant to reduce his stock of useful carrots and sticks. But for a prime minister who declared when he succeeded to the office that he wanted to work towards a classless society, he has been disappointingly slow to grapple with the honours that are the outward and visible symbols of a class-riven society.

In a radio interview last week, Mr Major said that he proposed no dramatic changes in the honours system. But starting with the Queen's birthday honours list in June, "automaticity" of awards for judges, civil servants who reach a certain rank and politicians who do as the whips tell them will be gradually phased out. "I believe honours should reflect merit," said Mr Major, which is like an American televangelist bearing witness that he is against sin.

Any honours system is by definition hierarchical: some get the things, others don't. Not many stern republicans would abolish honours. But here are five modest proposals to produce a sensible honours system for a would-be meritocratic representative democracy in the late 20th century. The honours lists are absurdly big, including well over 2,000 people a year, and bewilderingly graded by ranks, orders and classes. It takes a textual critic to understand the system. In size, and in the complexity of orders that reflect the last doubtful enchantments of the gang warfare of the Middle Ages, it needs drastic pruning.

The offensive distinction between honours reserved for different ranks should be abolished. At present "other ranks" such as long-serving school janitors and prime ministerial chauffeurs receive British Empire Medals, roughly a third of all awards, and named appropriately after an empire that ceased to exist 50 years ago. The

multifarious grander honours are reserved for officers and gentlemen. Footballers and television stars get the OBE or something nearly as lowly, to tickle the tabloids; cricketers and straight actors do better.

The cast-iron tradition by which certain titles go to certain ranks in certain jobs — high court judges, lieutenant-generals, permanent secretaries — should be ended. Honours should be for service for the public good beyond normal duty. They should not be delivered as automatically as the milk.

Mr Major should end "political" honours for MPs who have always voted at their party's call, and never thought of thinking for themselves at all, and for contributors of share-holders' money to party funds. He should devise ways to ensure that "working" peers never become an oxymoron. Honours are by nature political, from the warrior kings who rewarded their magnates with titles to James VI/I refreshing his treasury by flogging baronetcies. The venality of political honours is not as blatant as when they were sold à la carte by Lloyd George. But it still arouses righteous scorn.

Fifth, the obsessive secrecy surrounding the working of the system should end. It is a private arcanum of public patronage, whose workings cannot be questioned in parliament, but which remains entirely in the control of Downing Street and its well-greased honours machinery.

The system would be better run from Buckingham Palace, which is good at such points of honour, and manages the few honours reserved under its control notably better than the politicians. This would return to the monarchy a new role, at a time when its function is under examination. But it is not going to happen. However, a reforming government, which wanted to make Britain a country at ease with itself, would see that its honours did less to cheapen society and divide the classes. As Aristotle put it, writing the editorial on an earlier honours list: "Dignity does not consist in getting honours, but in deserving them."

## RING IN THE NEW MARKET

The EC now needs to look to the health of world trade

Beacons will be lit and fireworks set off tonight; and remarkably, the European Community is the object of these New Year's eve celebrations. To rejoice at the completion of some 300 new EC regulations may seem positively wayward. Yet the free movement of "goods, people, services and capital" throughout the EC, the goal to which these directives purport to be addressed, is unashamedly liberal. The "single European market", the completion of which is celebrated tonight, is potentially the EC's greatest achievement since the signing of the Treaty of Rome. There is much room for vigilance, in 1993 and beyond, to ensure that the new rules do not allow bureaucracy to have its red-taped way with these freedoms. There is none for carping tonight.

The symbolic date of December 31, 1992 was dreamt up seven years ago to concentrate Europe's mind on the potential benefits of fusing national markets. The 1992 programme was designed as a shock to the prevailing cultures of both business and government across Europe: its architects have achieved that aim at least. Businesses may shrink or grow, eat their competitors or be eaten. But those who run them will have to plan on a larger canvas, search out new opportunities and count fiercer competition into their calculations.

The single market is about knocking down barriers to enterprise — whether that of the lawyer who wants to practice in another EC country or the East Anglian miller who has never heard the old saw about taking coals to Newcastle and believes he can compete with Italians for the Neapolitan spaghetti market. All this the Treaty of Rome seemed to promise, but for it to happen, EC governments had to agree to abolish a mass of non-tariff barriers and the European Commission to switch to a lighter style of EC-wide law-making.

Not all capitals took the hint. Monitoring of the market's performance is only just beginning. As business and consumer groups point out daily, barriers still stand.

Regulating to deregulate is a slow business, whether wheels grind small or large. But in spite of well-advised lunacies, Brussels has hit the balance between intervention and anarchy better than some of its detractors believe. Some EC markets may be freer than others. Liberalisation may be checked in places. But as the single market formally opens for business, the demolition of barriers is an irreversible trend.

The market does not, however, open its doors in promising political and economic circumstances. The economic confidence of the mid-1980s which supplied the motor force for liberalisation is being sapped by recession and worry over the EC's obstinately high level of unemployment, now standing at 16 million. The temptations simply to move trade barriers from national frontiers to the EC's borders are great, destructive as this would be of European and global prosperity.

The Community's political masters should keep a wary eye on enforcement, but accept that perfect regulation is unattainable and undesirable. "It is the nature of all greatness not to be exact," said Edmund Burke, "and great trade will always be attended with considerable abuses." What is far more important is to open the EC's doors wider to trade with the rest of the world and with Eastern Europe in particular. Western Europe cannot credibly sound trumpets for a frontier-free EC while its common agricultural policy impoverishes Third World food producers and trade barriers shut out Polish coal or Czech steel. In the growth of healthy markets in these countries lie the best hopes for Europe's unemployed.

The EC has tackled its internal trade barriers with foresight and imagination, yet allows France to continue to place in jeopardy the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, on which the future of a liberal trading system — and with it, the EC's prosperity — depends. The most important New Year's resolution for EC governments must be to crown the real achievement of the single market programme with an early Gatt deal.

## GOING FOR A SPOON

This is the age when Everyman can play at being connoisseur

Britain's hidden hoards of treasure and fool's gold squirrelled away in the attic show no signs of drying up. The *Antiques Roadshow*, which has made petty connoisseurship a mass British craze, returns for its 150th programme next Sunday.

Much of the modern interest in often hideous and useless objects from the past is mercenary. The ancient dream of becoming rich overnight whispers that a crock of gold may lie unrecognised beside the debris of generations. The itinerant experts of the *Roadshow* attract crowds bearing things wherever they go. The things turn out to be junk, or, surprisingly often in the present boom for bygone, strike gold.

Part of the attraction may be snobbery. Suburban tea out of a Victorian silver teapot, however ugly and impractical, somehow tastes better, especially if the neighbours pour theirs out of earthenware. Part of the attraction of *Roadshow* is the modern lust for a moment of fame, even if this is achieved only by rubbing shoulders with tele-celebrities. All human beings have their share of

avarice, snobbery and self-importance. But behind the modern mass passion for antiques lies the more interesting impulse to hunt for roots in a changing world.

Antiques are remnants of history that have escaped the shipwrecks of time, and modern historians have come to recognise that the history and bibelots of Everyman are interesting, as well as those of princes. Because they are rarer, commoners' antiques may be more illuminating historically, though they tend to be less profitable in the auction room.

Before *The Antiques Roadshow*'s new generation of collectors, this backward-looking passion was confined to the upper-middle classes. This is the age of the common man, in antiques as in other departments of life. Prices have fallen fast during the recession, but the petty antiques markets are still busy.

The children of Arthur Negus can discover the pleasure of collecting the past because it is beautiful, or simply because they like it, and not just because it is likely to bring a windfall. Everyman can now afford to be a dilettante, even if it is only in caddy spoons.

## Action to curb the law's delays

From Mr Alistair G. MacDuff

Sir, There has been much recent discussion concerning delay in the courts and the costs to the public purse of legal services. May I mention a provision within the new Criminal Justice Act which will add greatly to both costs and delay?

Since October 1, in the large majority of cases, crown court judges have been required to consider a pre-sentence report (a form of social enquiry report) before a defendant may be sentenced. There is no provision which enables this requirement to be waived, even if all parties are legally represented and consent.

In many cases the report will be an invaluable aid to the sentence and will greatly assist in determining the just sentence. However, in many other cases a report will be wholly unnecessary — where, for example, imprisonment is recognised to be inevitable, or where the judge has already decided that he can give a community sentence.

These pre-sentence reports cannot be written until the defendant has either expressed his intention to plead guilty or has been found guilty by a jury. In very many cases an adjournment of the case will be unavoidable.

This will necessarily occur at the end of a trial where a defendant is found guilty. It will also occur where a defendant makes his decision to plead guilty only at the door of the court.

The effects of this rule are already being felt. Among the many undesirable consequences which all create further costs and delay are:

1. The costs to the public purse of two hearings, attended by barristers and solicitors, where one hearing would suffice.
2. A delay of some weeks before a defendant knows his fate.
3. The inevitable delay caused to other cases by the need to accommodate these adjourned cases in a later list.
4. The difficulty of fitting the adjourned cases into the list of the same judge (who may have moved on to a different court) and of arranging the adjourned hearing to accommodate counsel who represented the defendant at the trial.

In the case of part-time judges the difficulties are even more acute. Some weeks after his sitting the recorder will have to arrange to "fit in" a further one or two days (with inevitable disruption to his own practice) to pass sentence in the cases he has previously tried. He will have to be paid for his extra sitting time, and a vacant court room found.

Sir, the rule needs to be changed.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISTAIR MACDUFF,  
Deveraux Chambers,  
Deveraux Court, WC2.

## Commercial disputes

From the Chief Executive of the Bar Council

Sir, Mr David Steel, QC (letter, December 21), draws urgent attention to the need to make arrangements to continue the work of the Commercial Court list within the City of London. Your readers may be unaware of a recent innovation introduced into hearings of this court.

Last June Mr Justice Saville authorised the evidence of a Hong Kong shipping agent to be taken by video conferencing at the Bar Council studio (report, Law Times, October 13). This obliged the need to fly the witness to London at a cost of some £10,000. Instead the cost was just over £700.

Video conferencing has the potential to save thousands of pounds in international litigation and makes it possible to involve witnesses who are not free to travel. The Bar Council will be pleased to share its experience in this area with those in the City who are interested.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MOTTRAM,  
Chief Executive,  
The General Council of the Bar,  
3 Bedford Row, WCI.  
December 21.

## Life before Wings

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, The Beazles may not have quite such mythic status among the young as your third leader (December 17) suggests.

A university teacher I know was recently asked by a student whether it was true that Paul McCartney used to be in another group before Wings.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,  
34 West End,  
Haddenham, Cambridge.  
December 17.

## Healthy solution

From Miss Katharine Whitehorn

Sir, Alan Ryan's excellent article (December 22) on the ills of American health care left out yet another problem Bill Clinton has to tackle: the cost to doctors of their education.

When most doctors start their careers \$100,000 in debt, they have to go for high-paying specialties to pay it back, with the result that there are many areas with no primary health care at all.

The poor use the emergency room

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Bidding for the Channel 5 licence

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Television Commission

Sir, Sir Hugh Dundas (letter, December 22) suspects that the Independent Television Commission used a technicality in the Broadcasting Act to reject the application for the Channel 5 licence submitted by Channel Five Holdings. That is not the case.

The Broadcasting Act 1990 makes it clear that the ITC shall not award the licence unless it appears to the commission that the applicant would be able to maintain the service throughout the period for which the licence would be in force. A provisional award is not an option open to the ITC.

The ITC's invitation to apply, published in April this year, described this test as its "primary consideration" in assessing the business plan of an applicant. The commission was not satisfied that the business plan and funding proposed by Channel Five Holdings satisfied the statutory test and concluded that the licence should not be awarded.

The commission was not content with some of the costs contained in the plan or with the audience share and revenue projections which it contained. Nor was it content with the level of committed funding, an issue which had been fully discussed between the ITC and Channel Five Holdings in September.

The application by Channel Five Holdings was the only one received. It was submitted in early July; the total payments to the Treasury were known to be only £1,000 a year, and yet, by December 17, in spite of two postponements of the commission's decision at the request of Channel Five Holdings, there was still insufficient investor commitment — as distinct from expressions of interest.

The purpose of the 12-week period between the award and grant of the licence was for financial arrangements to be finalised, but not to seek hitherto uncommitted investment for the great majority of the funding.

Sir Hugh also believes that the ITC was influenced by a desire to protect the Channel 3 licensees, particularly the two London companies. He is mistaken. The threats of legal action

by Carlton and LWT if the licence was awarded did not influence the ITC's decision.

There was no hidden agenda. The commission came to a view of the Channel Five Holdings' application on the basis of all the relevant evidence available to it.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GLENCROSS,  
Chief Executive,  
Independent Television Commission,  
70 Brompton Road, SW3,  
December 29.

From Dr Stephen Castell

Sir, We share Sir Hugh Dundas's suspicion that the ITC seized upon a technicality to provide it with an excuse for rejecting Thames Television's application for the Channel 5 licence. Since February 1989 we have wanted to submit an innovative bid for the licence, proposing multi-stream programming services and viewer-funded financing and ownership, based on a digital transmission system. It took 15 months to gain the ITC's grudging written confirmation that such a digital bid was legally tenable.

In view of this reluctance, we were not confident that the ITC would give our proposal a fair hearing, and we withdrew from the bidding at the eleventh hour. Now we are astonished to find the ITC stating that "the possibility of treating the frequencies concerned as part of the resources available for the introduction of digital television at a later date will be among the matters for review".

I suppose that we should welcome this new public recognition by the ITC of the validity of our proposed approach; but it would have been more helpful all round to have had such clear acknowledgment before the bid deadline. Meanwhile, we shall certainly be redoubting our efforts to develop our idea for the utilisation of the Channel 5 frequencies.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN CASTELL,  
(Director), Cable and Satellite  
Telecommunications Ltd,  
PO Box 334, Witham, Essex,  
December 22.

## The Army and Bosnia

From Mr Winston S. Churchill,  
MP for Don Valley (Conservative)

Sir, The fact that the government is now moving towards military intervention in Bosnia, rather than merely assisting with the provision of humanitarian aid, is to be welcomed. It is evident that this cannot effectively be done by air power alone, which indeed could be the worst of all options, doing nothing to protect the civilian population while placing our own forces at risk.

There is an urgent requirement for a Nato force, acting in the name of the United Nations, to be deployed to provide "safe havens" for the civilian population of Bosnia and, as a precautionary deterrent measure, to Macedonia and Kosovo.

It is unacceptable that a city such as Sarajevo be reduced to rubble by the preponderance of heavy weapons in the hands of the Serbs, with the attendant loss of civilian lives and tens of thousands more forced from their homes as refugees. It has also become urgent to ensure, so far as it is possible to do so, that this conflict does not spread wider in the Balkans.

Clearly Britain should play a leading role in such a deployment. However, this would inevitably show up the critical situation in which the

British Army has been placed due to the *Options for Change* cuts which were conceived in an entirely different international climate and which now require to be urgently reviewed.

Even now it is possible to call a halt to some of the proposed regimental amalgamations. The number of infantry battalions, scheduled to drop from 55 to 38, should be at a minimum of at least 43 and an additional 5,000 men added to the Army establishment over and above this figure to flesh out units which otherwise are and will remain under strength.

Already the "overstretch" in the British Army has become intolerable with, for example, the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry that I visited at Tidworth barracks earlier this month being required to deploy to Northern Ireland four times within two years.

In such circumstances it is wholly unrealistic to imagine that Britain can undertake a military deployment to the Balkans of any significance and duration without rescinding some of the cuts being made to the Army which go far beyond what can be justified by the present unstable international situation.

I have the honour to remain etc.  
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL,  
House of Commons,  
December 30.

## De-icing agent

From Mr Darren Lee

Sir, Mr Trevor Sharot (letter, December 30) recommends motorists to pour a kettle of warm water over frozen windcreens to melt the ice. The water must not be too hot, however, as this will cause the windscreen to crack.

I use this method and agree that it is indeed the quickest and most thorough, if one is careful.

Yours etc,  
DARREN LEE,  
Amber Lights, Purleigh Close,  
Basildon, Essex,  
December 30.

From Mr R. L. Allen  
Sir, I find that parking my car with a copy of *The Times* pressed to the glass prevents ice from forming, making de-icing agents redundant.

Yours faithfully,  
R. L. ALLEN,  
50 Lingfield Close,  
High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire,  
December 30.

of the nearest hospital — expensive and inappropriate.  
Free education, in return for, say, five years' service in primary care, might make for better doctors as well as better provision for patients.

Yours etc,  
KATHARINE WHITEHORN  
(Vice-president),  
The Patients Association,  
18 Victoria Park Square, E2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## Honours, duty and civil service

From Lord Hanson

Sir, Recent press comment has questioned the suitability or otherwise of "automatic" honours for members of our civil service (report, December 22). Since they would never speak up for themselves, pray Sir, let me.

I am reminded of the actor who, having worked his way up through the ranks of the theatre, some 20 years' hard labour on the boards, was finally acclaimed "an overnight sensation" — "a discovery". Automatically? No, he earned it, the hard way.

I am sure my point is not lost but to emphasise it, our civil servants are among the hardest-working people in and outside this country. They represent the finest service in the world and their honesty is a by-word.

With ability and assiduity, selected entirely on merit, a few reach the higher echelons and, like any other successful members of the public, are rewarded in the honours lists. Not automatically; they have earned their honour. Their reward is comparable in every way to that of anyone else. The civil service also helps to guide honours for others through the "system". If the present system is changed, this country will be poorer.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
HANSON,  
House of Lords.

From Mr Walter Cairns

Sir, Anthony Howard (December 22) asks: "Is Whitehall turning Tory?" He contrasts this alleged trend with the principle of impartiality which the civil service is supposed to uphold. However, should we not question the validity of that principle?

In almost every other country in the democratic world it is accepted as normal that the civil service should be of the same political inclination as the government of the day. This is not considered to be improper, since a government relies largely upon its civil service to implement its policies, and to do so wholeheartedly and unreservedly.

It is surely undemocratic in the extreme that a "neutral", unelected administrative apparatus should be able to frustrate government policy by withholding co-operation. The sooner the civil service reflects the parliamentary majority the better.

Yours sincerely,  
W. CAIRNS,  
Brookhurst Hall,  
836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester 20.

## A tale of two states

From Dr R. Hanka

Sir, Your leading article on the division of Czechoslovakia (December 24) was wrong to state that in 1939 the country was dismembered by Hitler.

When Hitler occupied Bohemia and Moravia in March 1939, Slovakia unilaterally declared independence and later, as the Slovak Republic, entered the second world war on Germany's side. At the end of the war the Slovak Republic disappeared from the international scene without any formal declaration and Slovakia re-established its position as an integral part of Czechoslovakia. The Slovak Republic thus succeeded in participating in the war on the losing side without ever having to concede defeat.

Today some Slovak politicians see the independent Slovak Republic as the successor to the Slovak Republic of the 1940s. Presumably, this means that the new Slovak Republic might find itself still at war with the UK, France and the United States.

Yours faithfully,  
RUDOLF HANKA,  
Wolfson College, Cambridge,  
December 28.

From Mr John Eckersley

Sir, When Czechoslovakia was formed after the first world war, most countries adopted a spelling for the new state which conformed to their own spelling conventions (Tchéco, Tscheco, etc.). For some inexplicable reason, the English-speaking countries adopted the Polish spelling with its absurd Cr.

If we are now to have a new state with a new name, is not this a unique opportunity to rectify the anomaly and agree to spell it as we are going to say it — "Czec Republic" or "Cheadlands"?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ECKERSLEY,  
32 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford,  
December 30.

## End in sight

From Mr Martin Warrillow

Sir, After just over a month of reading, "The Queen may have had an *anus horribilis*, but what about the unemployed/the miners/Norman Lamont/the Bosnians/the Somalis/the EC/John Major/David Mellor/the England football team?", I am getting just a little tired of it.

Now that we are reaching the end of 1992, can we please get rid of it?

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN WARRILLOW,  
31 Alexandra Mews,  
Tamworth, Staffordshire,  
December 22.



## Forthcoming marriages

## University news

**Oxford**  
Queen's  
Mr G. Marshall has been elected to the Provostship, to succeed Dr J. Moffat.

**Manchester**  
**Appointments to Chairs**  
Peter Maudell, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, to be Professor of Neuropsychology in the Department of Psychology, from January 1.

Henry Lawrence, Senior Lecturer in Spanish, to be Professor of Spanish in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, from January 1.

**Other Appointments**  
Senior Lecturer in Nursing: Jean Faugier  
Senior Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery: J G Andrew.

## Church news

**Officer** (Winchester) to be also an **Honorary Canon** of Winchester Cathedral.

**The Rev Peter Gifford**, Team Vicar, Basingstoke Team Ministry to be **Canon** of Winchester Cathedral.

**The Rev Stephen Grey**, Curator, Worsley to be **Vicar**, St Michael, Winchester.

**The Rev Canon David Haslam**, Vicar, St Andrew, Rossington appointed a **Canon** of Winchester Cathedral on retirement (December 6).

**The Rev Alan Whydale**, Rector, Old Brumby St Hugh, Scunthorpe to be **Canon** of Winchester Cathedral.

**The Rev Ronald Howarth**, Vicar, Millhouse Holy Trinity (Huddersfield) to be **Canon** of St Michael and All Angels (Wakefield).

**The Rev John Hann**, Rector, St Andrew, Bournemouth to be **Canon** of St Michael and All Angels (Wakefield).

**The Rev Canon John Hurrell**, Rector, St Ruthen, London (Christ Church, Annersford and St Edith, Pulvercham, Dorset) to be **Canon** of St Michael and All Angels (Wakefield).

**The Rev Malcolm Jones**, Chaplain of the Bishop of Winchester to be **Canon** of St Michael to be **Team Vicar**, Cleethorpes Team Ministry (Lincoln).

**The Rev Canon John Knight**, Rector, Christ the King, Newcastle to be **Priest-in-Charge**, Newcastle. St John the Evangelist, Newcastle.

**The Rev Canon Roger Knight**, Rural Dean of Higham, and Vicar, St Andrew, Higham, to be **Canon** of the Diocesan Board of Education (Peweeborough).

**The Rev Canon Martin**, Archbishop's permission to officiate, **Diocese York** to be **Assistant Canon** (NSM), York St.

# Banned golf clubs strike gold

block head putter which looks like a croquet mallet and was intended for putting croquet-style. It is estimated to make up to £1,200. Rynyan's prism putter from the Sixties enabled a player to see a straight line to the hole through a glass prism fitted in the club head (£300-£500).

that while the items are illegal they can be used for practice "and they're a lot of fun". The sale coincides with the British Golf Collector's annual meeting in Chester. The 541 lot sale is expected to make about £200,000. The most valuable lot is a late 18th century thick-bladed lofting iron, used to "lift" the ball from a flat pathway, which is expected to make up to between £8,000-£12,000. For many years it stood forgotten in a hall stand.

## Appointment

**Mr David Kennedy to be Director-General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.**

**FAX: 071 481 9313**

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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ELF the Liquidator of the Company, and, if so required, notice by writing from the

[illegible]



OBITUARIES

ANTHONY HUXLEY

Anthony Huxley, horticulturist, botanist and author, died in Surbiton, southwest London, on December 26, aged 72. He was born on December 2, 1920.

A MEMBER of a family that has produced distinguished scientists for four generations, Anthony Huxley ranked alongside his father, Sir Julian Huxley, FRS, and shared his gift for elegant expression of his mastery of a biological field. Botanist, plantsman, explorer and author, Huxley mapped every significant phase of horticulture and plant science in a career that spanned 40 years and 35 major publications.

Huxley's love of living things was shaped during a childhood spent largely at London Zoo where his father was secretary. At this time he built up a collection of cacti, which he regarded as "the beginning of it all".

At Trinity College, Cambridge he chose to pursue his second interest, English literature, an unusual decision for the member of a scientific dynasty but wholly in character with a man of such wide-ranging interests.

After a wartime career in operational research for the RAF, and later for the state-owned airline BOAC, Huxley's love of botany and writing converged in a career in horticulture. In 1949 he joined the staff of *Amateur Gardening* under the editorship of Arthur Helyer, who he came to regard as a mentor in horticulture and writing.

By 1971, when Huxley decided to devote himself full-time to writing and travelling, he had become not only editor of this long-established magazine, but also a figure respected and



admired by the world of horticulture. Huxley's career as author began during his years at *Amateur Gardening* when he wrote handbooks and occasional pieces about gardens at home and abroad.

Whether he was describing a partner or a tropical terrace, these pieces anticipated his later books in their style and variety.

He loved travelling, especially to the Mediterranean and the rainforests of

South America and studying plants in their natural habitats. Some of his many books were based on these experiences, particularly *Flowers of the Mediterranean* (with Oleg Polunin), and, as editor, *Flowers of Greece and the Aegean*.

Beautifully illustrated and fastidiously written, these books display Huxley's wonder at the natural world and his talents as field botanist and photographer. They formed a bridge between

garden and wilderness and inspired a greener attitude where passion for plant followed respect for habitat.

This message can be read into all of Huxley's later activities as author, lecturer and leader of many botanical expeditions. It is nowhere more clear than in *Green Inheritance*, written to support the World Wildlife Fund's plant conservation campaign.

Tropical plants were among Huxley's favourites and he became an expert on houseplants, again writing several books on the subject. He was a pioneer of growing houseplants in large bottles, a technique which has enabled many people to grow delicate plants in centrally heated homes.

Huxley had a strong interest in history, especially gardening history (from the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans). A result of this was the publication of *An Illustrated History of Gardening*. The highlight of his career was his editorship of *The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening*, published this year and covering every aspect of plants and gardening.

Huxley had a great sense of humour and loved bizarre and unusual plants. His small suburban front garden was almost filled with *Gunnera manicata*, a large rhubarb-like species, taller than a man, from South America.

Closely involved with the Royal Horticultural Society, Huxley had been a member of its council. He was awarded the RHS Veitch Memorial Medal in 1979. In 1980 the society bestowed on him its highest award: the Victoria Medal of Honour.

He is survived by his wife Alyson and four daughters.

CYRIL WALTERS

Cyril Frederick Walters, the England Test cricketer, died in Neath on December 23 aged 87. He was born in Glamorgan on August 28, 1905.

IN THE years between the two world wars England fielded no more graceful a batsman than Cyril Walters. Tall, slim and handsome, with a full swing of the bat and exceptional wrists, by the end of 1934 he had played in 11 successive Test matches and averaged more than 50 runs. But in 1935 ill health forced him to abandon the game.

Born in Bedlington, Mid Glamorgan, and educated at Neath County School, he played 75 matches for Glamorgan, starting in 1923, but with limited success. In 1928, when he was only 24, he was appointed secretary of Worcestershire.

It was not uncommon in those days for a county secretary to be an active member of his county side, but Walters had first to spend two years in Worcestershire, qualifying by residence. That done, he was soon making runs for them - 1,021 in his first season, 1,103 in his second, 1,562 in his third and 2,165 in his fourth.

He had improved his game since leaving Glamorgan and the setting at New Road, with its smoothest of outfield and the cathedral as a backdrop, blended well with the Walters style which even then was often described as "old-fashioned".

By 1933 he was in the England side, playing in all three Tests against the West Indies and scoring nine centuries for Worcestershire, a county record surpassed since then only by Glenn Turner and Graeme Hick.

In India in the winter of 1933-4, with D. R. Jardine's MCC side, he averaged 71 in the three Tests, making his only Test hundred in the last of them.

The Australians were in England in 1934, set upon avenging their defeat in the Bodyline series of 1933-3, and Walters more or less chose himself as Herbert Sutcliffe's opening partner. He had a remarkably consistent series, passing 40 seven times in his nine innings and averaging 50.12.

When a broken thumb prevented R.E.S. Wyatt from playing in the first Test match, Walters took over as England's captain. Although this was more because of his amateur status than his se-

niority as a player, he had been leading Worcestershire since 1931.

Australia had the two most deadly spinners in the world, O'Reilly and Grimmett, and Walters made good use of his height and reach when he tackled them. The one disappointment was that in spite of often getting to 40 he had to settle for a top score of 82.

Walters's play had, perhaps, something of David Gower's nonchalance. He was lovely to watch but his attention was liable to stray. In the field, away from the bat, he was very good.

It was a sad loss when his health broke down halfway through the 1935 season and he faded out of the game to work in his wife's family business. His special glory was the leg place but his 12,415 runs in first-class cricket (average 30.94), which included 21 centuries, were scored all round the wicket.

Recently he started to revisit the grounds he graced as a player. Still elegant and untruffled, he spent a day at Lord's last June in Paul Getty's box with Bob Wyatt for company, watching the Test match against Pakistan. He was also in his first year as president of the Worcestershire Old Players' Association.

CYRIL AINSLEY

Cyril Ainsley, former chief reporter of the *Daily Express*, has died aged 79. He was born on April 13, 1913.

CYRIL Ainsley was one of the leading figures on the *Daily Express* during its great years when it sold more than four million copies a day and a place on its staff represented the height of ambition for many journalists who hoped to break into Fleet Street.

Under two famous editors, Arthur Christiansen and Ted (later Sir Edward) Pickering, and a host of their successors, Ainsley represented an easily recognisable *Express* type - urbane, fast-thinking, unfail-

ingly accurate and capable of producing a colourful and sometimes memorable phrase while under deadline pressure.

He followed a traditional route to Fleet Street, starting on a local paper and serving his apprenticeship in the forcing ground of Manchester. He was born in Penrith, educated at a grammar school, and went from school to the *Carlisle Journal*. He worked for the *Daily Mirror* in Manchester and the *Daily Express* in Liverpool before he volunteered to join the RAF as a wireless operator/air gunner in 1940.

He was as dependable an airman as he was a journalist

and gravitated naturally to Bomber Command, flying missions over Germany until his Stirling bomber was shot down in 1941 while returning from a raid on Berlin.

As a prisoner of war Ainsley remained at heart a journalist. He took down the BBC news, circulated it clandestinely among his fellow prisoners and started a camp newspaper. Instead of interviewing people for the *Daily Express* he interviewed prisoners about their experiences and managed to send the intelligence he obtained to London.

On demobilisation Ainsley returned to the *Daily Express* in the North of England but Christiansen, the great talent

spotter, brought him to London in spite of the restrictions on recruiting Fleet Street staff caused by newsprint rationing.

It was Ainsley who was sent to interview Churchill when the then leader of the Opposition sped back to Britain in a chartered flying boat for the 1950 election campaign. Despite confusion about whether the aircraft was landing at Calshot or Southampton, he guessed correctly and got Churchill's first comments as he came ashore in Southampton.

It was Ainsley who in the same year found himself obtaining Lady Astor's views on Bernard Shaw as the two sat

beside Shaw's body on the playwright's deathbed. And it was Ainsley who was reserved for some of Lord Beaverbrook's major stories, such as obtaining the Duke of Windsor's controversial answers to accusations about his wartime conduct.

Towards the end of his career he became a broadcasting correspondent but when trouble flared up in Northern Ireland he was recalled to the colours. His reporting then was as distinguished as it was at any stage during his career.

He did not enjoy good health in his last years. He married Rosa Ferranti in 1939 and they had two sons and two daughters.



TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

LEGAL NOTICES

**INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
**THE SOCIETY OF**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS**  
Notice is hereby given that the following persons have been appointed as Administrative Receivers of the following companies:  
1. **THE SOCIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS** (Incorporated in England)  
2. **THE SOCIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS** (Incorporated in England)  
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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF**  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS**  
Notice is hereby given that the following persons have been appointed as Administrative Receivers of the following companies:  
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LEGAL NOTICES

**THE SOCIETY OF**  
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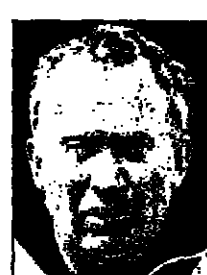
## BUSINESS 21-25

Hong Kong faces more turmoil in its markets



## ARTS 27-28

Demi Moore leads the hunt for A Few Good Men



## SPORT 32-40

Keith Fletcher warns against complacency

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# THE TIMES 2

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 1992

## Store wars break out for 1993

### Tesco and Sainsbury meet head-to-head on prices

By PATRICIA TEHAN

SAINSBURY'S and Tesco are to turn the screw on their weaker competitors Gateway and Asda this weekend with the start of a super-market price war offering a range of discounts of up to 50 per cent on hundreds of their products.

David Sainsbury, who took over as chairman from his cousin Lord Sainsbury at the beginning of November, and Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's long-serving chairman, are prepared to sacrifice profit margin in this latest battle in the highly competitive food retailing market.

Sainsbury's started the contest yesterday saying it can afford to make what it calls its "biggest and best ever package of price cuts" because it is in a strong position after beating Christmas sales targets. Sainsbury's is to cut prices on 750 items from Sunday with reductions between 15 per cent and 50 per cent.

Tesco hit back with an accusation that "Sainsbury's has to do something about prices because its prices are at the top end", but then announced a promotion on over 1,000 items from Monday.

Tesco said: "Our promotional programme has always been at least as competitive as that of Sainsbury's and we anticipate that next week will be no different." The promotion includes over 100 reductions of more than 33 per cent, with some at half price.

The move will put immense pressure on Icosceles, parent of the Gateway supermarket chain, which last week said it was negotiating a financial restructuring with its banks. Icosceles has debts of around £1.3 billion. Two weeks ago the group, a leveraged buy-out vehicle for Gateway, disclosed it was suffering deep financial difficulties and asked its banks for a standstill agreement.

A Gateway spokeswoman

Massive discounts on a wide range of foods by market leaders Sainsbury's and Tesco will put pressure on their weaker supermarket rivals from next week

said it too would run a New Year promotion, with price cuts of up to 40 per cent on over 100 items. She said: "Gateway runs promotions every day of the week, every week of the year." She described the Sainsbury's price cuts as "media hype".

Asda, at the end of the first six months of a three-year recovery plan, could also suffer. It pledged yesterday to keep its food prices down.

Paul Dowling, Asda's corporate affairs director, said: "We are and will remain the

Save, the leading discount retailer, lost 2.7 per cent to 784p. J Sainsbury fell 2.4 per cent to 561p, and Tesco, seen as less able to afford to discount prices than Sainsbury's, fell 5.6 per cent to 251p.

Tony MacNeary, food retailing analyst at County NatWest, said the profitability and earnings per share of the major food retailers is not likely to be damaged by the price cuts. He said the promotions will damage the Co-op, the independents and the corner shops. However, he said, Tesco is more exposed than Sainsbury's as "it is already having a hard enough time" in the recession. He said Tesco "has been struggling to keep up with the pace that Sainsbury's has been setting."

In September, Tesco admitted it was being outperformed by Sainsbury's. It revealed it had a like-for-like sales trend of minus 1 per cent. These January sales echo the supermarket price war started by Sainsbury last January that turned nasty as the food giants battled for market share.

Mr MacNeary said: "The last thing Gateway wants to do is to cut prices, it needs the cash flow." Sainsbury yesterday announced a promotion on 500 items from Monday, combined with a cut-price holiday promotion with Thomson based on its till receipts.

The moves will put the pressure on Kwik Save, Britain's leading discount supermarket, which averages discounts of between 10-15 per cent on the others.

Comment, page 23  
Stock market, page 24

Sainsbury	10.6
Tesco	9.4
Co-op	7.5
Argyll (incl Safeway)	7.5
Asda	6.2
Gateway	4.3
Marks and Spencer (foods)	3.3
Kwik Save	1.6
Morrisons	1.6
Waitrose	1.6
Isle of Frost Foods	1.2
William Low	0.6

(Source: Institute of Grocery Distribution - groceries 1991 sales of £28 bn)

lowest price national supermarket. Our food pricing is about every day low pricing, not seasonal gimmicks."

Mr Dowling said Asda will do what it has to do to remain the lowest-priced supermarket. Asda's January sale, primarily on non-food items, started on Sunday with price cuts on more than 1,500 items.

The news sent food retailing shares spiralling down. Asda shares lost 3.4 per cent of their value, falling to 564p; Argyl Group which owns Safeway fell 5.2 per cent to 398p; Kwik



Fighting back: Tesco's Ian MacLaurin will match offers



Challenger Tesco retaliates with cuts from 1,000 items in 'a programme at least as competitive as Sainsbury's'



Fresh offensive: David Sainsbury leading the charge



Sainsbury's will cut up to 50 per cent off 750 items in its 'biggest and best package of price cuts'

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### HARD WORDS



Shares in Pentos fell by a quarter after the books and office furniture group gave warning that profits would be below market expectations  
Page 21

#### FEAST ENDS

The stock market's record-breaking run came to a halt with shares in food retailers in the firing line amid fears of a price war  
Page 24

#### STAR IS BORN



BTR was the star of the Tempus 1992 selection with a rise of 37 per cent, reflecting the benefits of the Hawker Siddeley takeover  
Page 23

#### TWIN PEAKS



In the City, SG Warburg topped the list of corporate financial advisers in 1992, working on the two largest deals  
Page 22

US dollar  
1.5130 (+0.0100)  
German mark  
2.4408 (+0.0071)  
Exchange index  
79.3 (+0.3)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share  
2170.9 (-7.9)  
FT-SE 100  
2832.5 (-15.3)  
New York Dow Jones  
3315.43 (+4.59)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Arge  
16924.95 (-360.69)

London: Bank Base: 7%  
3-month interbank: 7 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills: 6 1/4-6 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 2 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.13-3.11%  
30-year bonds: 102 1/2-102 1/4

London: New York  
E: \$1.5130  
E: DM2.4425  
E: SFR2.2098  
E: FF16.3005  
E: Yen118.57  
E: Index: 79.3  
ECU: ED800140  
ECU: ED249781  
London Forex market close

London: New York  
AM \$322.20 PM \$322.20  
Close \$322.20 \$322.20  
\$219.70-219.55  
New York:  
Comex \$ 333.15-333.65\*

Brent (Jan) \$17.95/bbl (\$17.85)

RPI: 133.7 November (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

### Business New Year honours

## Kingfisher chief knighted

By JON ASHWORTH

GEOFFREY Mulcahy, the retailer who has been leading the fight to keep shops open on Sunday, has been awarded a knighthood. He joins Bob Clarke, of United Biscuits, and a host of fellow business leaders who have been honoured in the New Year's honours list.

Sir Geoffrey, chairman and chief executive of Kingfisher, the group that owns Woolworths, B&Q, Superdrug and Comet, has been knighted for services to the retail industry, but described his honour as "a team effort". B&Q has been testing the courts in an attempt to end confusion over the Sunday trading laws. "It's in everyone's interest to see this uncertainty resolved", Sir Geoffrey said.

Sir Robert, 62, chairman of United Biscuits (Holdings), has been knighted in recognition of 40 years' service to the food industry. He has served on food industry trade bodies since the mid-sixties and took UB into continental Europe.

John "Chips" Keswick, chairman of Hambros Bank, receives a knighthood for services to banking. Born in Shanghai and educated at Eton, he was appointed Hambros chairman in 1986 and became joint deputy chairman of Hambros plc in 1990.



Three for accolade: Kingfisher's Mulcahy, top, Keswick of Hambros Bank, left, and Clarke of United Biscuits

Corporation, is knighted for public service in Wales. Sir Geoffrey is chairman of the Land Authority for Wales.

There is a knighthood, too, for Wilfrid "CW" Newton, chairman and chief executive of London Transport and chairman of London Underground. Sir Wilfrid, 63, was previously group managing director and chief executive of

jointly founded Murray Johnstone, the investment firm, as a spin-off from Robert Fleming. He is still the firm's non-executive chairman.

Paul Nicholson, who succeeded his father, Douglas, as chairman of Vaux Group in 1976, is knighted for services to industry and to the public in northeast England. Sir Paul is a director of Northern Electric and chairman of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation.

Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT Holdings since 1983, receives a knighthood for his services to the community. Sir Christopher, 54, is chairman of the Hammer-smith and Queen Charlotte's Hospitals Special Health Authority.

Business leaders to receive CBEs include Frank Barlow of Pearson, Clinton Silver of Marks and Spencer and David Wigglesworth, former head of the CBI's economic situation committee. Martin Taylor, vice chairman of Hanson, joins the list along with Edwin Foden, chairman and chief executive of ERF (Holdings), the truck company, and Roger Corley, managing director of Clerical Medical, the insurance group.

John Jarvis, of Jarvis Hotels, is appointed a CBE together with Bill Morrison, chairman of the Auditing Practices Board, Christopher Sharp, managing director of Northern Rock building society, and Peter Dean, deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Photograph, page 1  
Full list, pages 8-9  
Leading article, page 17  
Sports award, page 40

## Company failures leap by 31%

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE number of business failures soared 31 per cent to nearly 63,000 this year, as companies were pushed under by the burden of bad debt.

Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group that compiled the figures, said the number of failures is likely to grow for the next two years, as the recession continues its stranglehold on British firms. London and the south east of England were hardest hit, accounting for one in three of the 62,767 business failures in Britain and one in every two limited company liquidations.

The Treasury said the figures reflected what has already happened in the economy and not prospects for the future.

The D&B figures show that the rate of growth of business failures has slowed from 65 per cent in 1991. The pace of liquidations of larger companies slowed from 49 per cent to 11 per cent, helped by their success in cutting costs, postponing investment and delaying payments.

However, D&B said that this success hit smaller firms, as shown by a 47 per cent increase in bankruptcies among sole traders, partnerships and associates.

Philip Somerville, survey manager for D&B, said that business failures have still not reached their post-recession peak.

He expects larger firms to continue with cost cutting, which will continue to bring pain to smaller companies. He does not expect the number of failures to fall until after 1994.

END THE  
YEAR ON A  
DRY NOTE.



A glass of dry, chilled Tio Pepe.  
A rather good way to celebrate the passing of a rather bad year.  
And, strangely enough, when followed by a second glass, even a year like '92 doesn't seem all bad.

GONZALEZ BYASS  
The World's Finest Sherry





## Warning knocks Pentos

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

-	2	597
12	5	570
8	6	326

Charterhouse reached 18th position, up three.

### **"Sudden drop in orders": Terry Maher, chairman**

that pre-tax profits had fallen from £2.9 million to £2.4 million.

**TRADING** in shares of Sale Tilney, the loss-making mini-conglomerate whose interests span food, industrial products, insurance and finance, was suspended yesterday, at 4.2p, at the company's request, pending clarification of its financial position. Earlier this month the company, whose borrowings are thought to be about £24.5 million, said it was close to agreeing a financial restructuring with its banks.

Bank	Rank last year	No of deals	Value (£m)
1 SG Warburg	4	6	7,648
2 Schroders	2	9	4,088
3 Samuel Montagu	13	5	3,840
4 Morgan Grenfell	1	9	2,495
5 NM Rothschild	7	8	1,002
6 BZW	6	6	978
7 Lazard	17	6	609
8 Cazenove	2	2	557
9 Baring Brothers	12	5	570
10 Kleinwort Benson	8	6	326

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## Cut-price jitters at the checkouts

One day, stores shares jump on the stock market because people are flocking to buy cut-price bargains. Next day, supermarket shares fall because the checkout kings are going to have a binge of January discounts. Confusion was greatest among traders in Marks and Spencer, which has a foot in both camps and whose shares duly rose and fell in the passing week. The contrast is understandable. For stores, the pace of consumer spending is most important. In the higher rated supermarket business, overall sales are taken for granted. The keys are margins and market shares.

The sector has been growing nervous despite some sterling performances during the recession, when net operating margins at J Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyl's Sainsbury have continued to widen. Anxiety is partly due to the generally high share ratings, but also to nagging long-term doubts. Superstore openings are approaching saturation point, even if they never reach it because new products and services are introduced, ranging from in-store bakeries to Sunday opening. At the opposite end are fears that the rival top-notch supermarkets might be vulnerable to plainer discount retailers such as Kwik Save. The leaders, having squeezed traditional independents, have been bolstered by their ability to take business from weaker big chains such as Asda, Gateway or, until recently, Asda.

Sainsbury, which managed to get in first with price cuts, has reassured itself as market leader to the extent that its shares fell by less than half the drops of more than 5 per cent registered at Tesco and Argyl's. Gateway, which has never recovered from its leveraged takeover, is inevitably marked as the biggest potential loser. The falling status of Tesco is more worrying for a sector that has so far managed to disguise its vulnerability to the property market. Having raced up to vie neck and neck with Sainsbury, Tesco shows signs of tiredness, notably in sales growth from existing stores. The rush into Sunday trading looked a sign of weakness rather than expansion. Tesco sees its fall from grace, which has brought a much reduced stock market rating despite strong earnings and dividend growth, as purely temporary, perhaps due to timing of initiatives and a throwback from its old image.

As yet, there is little reason to see the latest round of seasonal price cuts as the start of a price war that none of the participants wants. The effects will, however, be watched with eagle eyes to see if Tesco really has weakened or whether it will prove to be the pioneer of a more general slowing of profit growth.

## Spain dares

As candidates to succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton as Governor of the Bank of England await the final call, they may wonder how different life might be if they were in line to run the Bank of Spain. The Spanish government has opted to give its central bank control of monetary policy on Bundesbank lines, taking stable prices as the test for setting interest rates and controlling money supply, with support for government policies conditional on them also meeting that test.

Nothing similar is likely to happen in Britain, not least because Britain has thankfully abandoned any inclination to keep up with the Maastricht timetable for monetary union inside the ERM. Vassalship must have been a relief for Mr Leigh-Pemberton. Without a single currency, the critical issue in central bank independence is management of the exchange rate. Any Governor saddled with the exchange rate at which Britain entered the ERM would have been tied to a bed of nails, certain only to reap the entire blame for all that followed. Outside the mark zone, independence would make more sense.

Sino-British quarrels have hauled the colony from its economic heights of 11 months ago. Lulu Yu asks where they will lead in 1993

Who would have thought 1992 would end this way for Hong Kong? The year started with a bang. The economy went from strength to strength. The stock and property markets recorded healthy gains. Inflation was reined in. We had a new governor whom everybody liked. And we were going to have a new airport after all.

Eleven months later, things are in tatters. Hong Kong is gripped by political crisis. Business confidence is severely shaken. Economic fundamentals are in jeopardy. The outlook is worse than in the days before the colony's future was sealed by Britain and China in 1984.

The uncertainties caused by the Sino-British quarrel will follow Hong Kong into 1993, a year Chinese fortune-tellers say will bring good luck and prosperity. Some are cynical about such predictions, but many will agree with the following:

□ Hong Kong will continue to benefit from the reforms in China.

□ Financial markets will have a roller-coaster ride in reaction to the political climate.

□ The economy will hinge on the renewal of most favoured nation status for China.

□ High inflation and low interest rates will continue to erode savings.

There is a large degree of consensus on the cause of the Sino-British dispute, which started when Governor Chris Patten proposed democratic reforms and intensified when China threatened to tear up all business contracts, including the one that promises a capitalist lifestyle for Hong Kong after 1997. Britain has taken the threats in its stride and refused to kowtow to China's demands. Peking has since attacked Jardine Matheson, the largest and oldest British group in the colony.

Norman Miners, a professor at Hong Kong University, said: "China is obviously annoyed. Mr Patten is acting contrary to the way British and Hong Kong governments have acted in the past, which is never to criticise China in public and never to appeal to public opinion."

The community is divided on how Hong Kong should get out of the impasse. The reform-minded say it is the last chance for democracy. The money-minded worry about the deteriorating stock market. They want more pragmatism in dealing with Hong Kong's future master, pointing out that whatever changes are installed could be dismantled by China after 1997. Allen Lee, Hong Kong's senior legislative councillor, said: "If this row and impasse continue I really think Hong Kong will go down the drain. Business confidence is already shaken."

Another legislator, Christine Loh,

who heads a large company with publishing and property interests, strongly disagreed. "We should stand very firm," she said. "If we can't even determine some of the things that are clearly within the province of Hong Kong to determine, where is the autonomy after 1997?"

Many in the pro-China camp, including K S Wai, a public relations man, argue that it is too late for changes. Britain did not fight for more democratic reforms in 1984 or in 1990, when the Basic Law mini-constitution was promulgated, he says, and should not do anything now.

Emily Lau, another legislator and a prominent journalist, is disgusted with that argument. "It's never too late to turn to 6 million people, who have nowhere to go, who are stuck here. Can we tell them, sorry Jack, it's too late? If you're purged by the communists after 1997, it's too bad. I'm going to bail out, it's too late to help you. Can we say that to the people of Hong Kong?"

Businessmen and stockbrokers say there is no need to upset China, and

give Hong Kong democracy, when the colony has thrived without democracy for the past 95 years. They say there is no reason for China not to honour its promises or cause damage to the colony.

They argue that Hong Kong is too important as China's gateway to foreign trade and investments: it employs 3 million people in Guangdong province, accounts for 40 per cent of China's exports and is the conduit for 70 per cent of its foreign investment. China has large investments in Hong Kong's property, stock and banking markets, they point out, and takeover of the colony after 1997 will be a model for unification with Taiwan.

An unlikely alliance of big business and communist cadres has formed in Hong Kong round these beliefs.

Mr Patten's initiatives are blamed for the stock market falls and the uncertainties surrounding Hong Kong's airport, port and other long-term contracts. The critics want the government to withdraw his contro-

versal proposals for electoral reforms, which are due to be debated and passed in some form in February.

"If Patten's proposals are passed in the Legislative Council, I see a situation where all hell will break loose," Mr Lee said. "The Hong Kong and British governments must consider whether the Chinese words are empty threats, whether they mean business, whether that's detrimental to Hong Kong's future."

Ms Loh said: "Let's not just look at what the Hang Seng index does on a day-to-day basis. That's only one barometer of confidence. The confidence has been knocked because of what has been said by China. People are concerned that Hong Kong will not be able to enjoy a high degree of autonomy and, if that is the case, the business environment may be changed."

Marshall Byres, of Ernst & Young, the accountant, called on the Hong Kong government not to delve into politics. "The economy is still booming," he said. "If the political pressure is relieved, the economy will look after

itself. The concept of *laissez faire* must continue as much as possible."

Robert Broadfoot, of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Company, sees no quick end to the political deadlock but believes the economy will survive. "The longer it drags on," he said, "the more businesses will grow accustomed to the fact that it is indeed possible to separate the business risk from the political risk."

One development is likely. International perception will shift for Hong Kong and China. Historically, banks and credit agencies have considered China's credit risk to be greater than Hong Kong's. Now it is being reassessed. In early December, Standard and Poor's put Hong Kong on its Creditwatch, a signal the agency may lower the colony's credit rating.

David Tang, an executive of Cluff Resources, the UK oil group, said the 1997 risk factor was exaggerated. "People regard it as some sort of a remarkable point in the history of Hong Kong. What they don't see is, it is actually a continuation of Hong Kong into China. People regard 1997 as a risk. What I don't understand is how multinational companies can invest millions in China and yet say Hong Kong is unstable because it is going to be part of China."

He said the current instability was a good opportunity to make money. "Hong Kong has lived through major instabilities and people have cashed in on those. Many billionaires today made their money when there was a real downturn, they bought when nobody was buying. It is not something that is necessarily bad."

Without politics overshadowing the economy, Hong Kong is indeed a good place to invest. Taxes are low, the treasury is flush with cash. Growth is expected to be 5.5 to 6 per cent in 1993. The speculative property market has cooled down to reasonable levels, and the stock market has retreated substantially from its peak 6,400 level, creating strong buying opportunities.

"We will have a good year in 1993 because we are starting from a depressed base," said Howard Gorges, of South China Securities. "I wouldn't be surprised to see a level of 8,000 on the Hang Seng index." A European broker asked: "Where else can you buy companies that are expected to have earnings growth of 20 to 30 per cent that are now trading at ten times?"

Analysts say China play stocks will continue to be the stars. "People are looking at companies which benefit from the growth of China as a whole rather than Hong Kong," said Robert Thomas, of Jardine Fleming Investment Management. "These have done well and probably the support will continue."

But no matter what stocks are traded, the political risk will be high. Hong Kong has seen the market fall 1,000 points in a single week in December. "You can look at charts, but when you are talking about emotions and theoretically there is no support," said Eugene Yang, of Standard Chartered Securities.

Up in arms: Chris Patten's stand over democracy has caused economic sabre rattling from China



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Many in the pro-China camp, including K S Wai, a public relations man, argue that it is too late for changes. Britain did not fight for more democratic reforms in 1984 or in 1990, when the Basic Law mini-constitution was promulgated, he says, and should not do anything now.

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Marshall Byres, of Ernst & Young, the accountant, called on the Hong Kong government not to delve into politics. "The economy is still booming," he said. "If the political pressure is relieved, the economy will look after

itself. The concept of *laissez faire* must continue as much as possible."

Robert Broadfoot, of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Company, sees no quick end to the political deadlock but believes the economy will survive. "The longer it drags on," he said, "the more businesses will grow accustomed to the fact that it is indeed possible to separate the business risk from the political risk."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

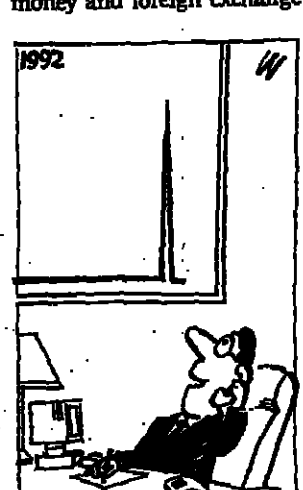
### Cartwright makes music

SHOULD Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas Capital Markets, the London arm of the French bank, ever tire of the City, he has a new career at his feet. Cartwright, a rhythm guitarist and vocalist, treated himself to a prized Gretsch guitar after winning a five-figure sum from a bet on the outcome of the last general election, and has formed a band, *Way Back When*, which is now accepting bookings. "I put an ad in the local paper for fellow musicians and the phone didn't stop ringing," Cartwright, a former Wood Mackenzie partner, says. "We have several bookings already, including a 21st birthday party at Farnborough Football Club in Kent, and the Knockholt PTA." His moonlighting activities are clearly not affecting his day job, however. Indeed, some of his colleagues failed to recognise him, dad in jeans and a silk shirt, when he made a guest appearance with another in-house Paribas band, Tired and Emotional, comprising Freddie Yearley, an equities trader, and Paula O'Brien, derivatives secretary, at this year's Paribas Christmas party in the Natural History Museum. "Hi Ho Silver Lining had them screaming for more, but lots of them failed to recognise me," said Cartwright.

**Juliet Bravo**  
SALESMEN and market makers at Smith New Court, who pride themselves on being more right than wrong, came badly unstuck on one

book they were running just before Christmas. This book was on the anticipated weight of a baby born to John Aldersley, pharmaceutical analyst-turned-specialist salesman, and his wife Rachel on December 23. Given that noted *bon viveur* Aldersley is estimated to weigh in at about 16½ stone, making his 5ft 9ins frame look decidedly chunky, and that his wife was once a policewoman, many of his colleagues were happy to buy at 8½ lbs. The baby, Juliet Daisy, eventually weighed in at 10½ lbs 2oz and cost most of them dear.

**Spirited back**  
HIGH spirits got somewhat out of hand when Richard Head, managing director of the interest rate options section of Prebon Yamane, the money and foreign exchange



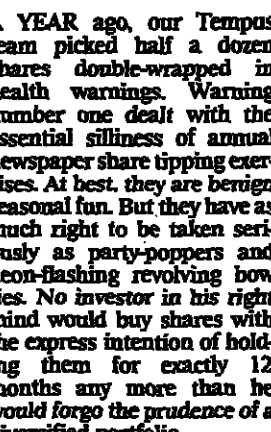
"Yes, we had quite a good Christmas, thank you."

broker, took a party of colleagues to lunch at Baltons, a wine bar and restaurant in Mincing Lane. After the revelers had left the restaurant, proprietor Chris "Chubs" Haines realised that they had taken his bookings diary with them, leaving him clueless as to who had booked which tables in the final — and extremely busy — 48-hour run-up to Christmas. "It was an absolute catastrophe," says Haines. Catastrophe was averted when the following lunchtime a well-dressed gentleman in what looked like an Armani raincoat came rushing in, put the diary on the counter and rushed out again, a relieved Haines reveals.

**Mondeo musings**  
ONE extravagant New Year's eve party now not taking place is the party originally planned by Ford at the Hilton to unveil his new Mondeo car, which will replace the Sierra. Ford called off the event three weeks ago, fearing it was inappropriate after its announcement of record losses and 4,000 UK redundancies. Motoring correspondents have, however, still been given a preview at a more private function at the Dorchester. The excuse for the celebration was a farewell party for Harry Calton, public relations manager, who is joining Aston Martin. Motoring journalists, still under an embargo not to reveal specific details, do not seem overly excited by the new model. "It's a cross between the Honda Accord and the Vauxhall Cavalier. It looks just like any other four door saloon," says one.

**Carol Leonard**

## Selection survives ravages of recession



Bauman: delivered

A YEAR ago, our Tempus team picked half a dozen shares double-wrapped in health warnings. Warning number one dealt with the essential silliness of annual newspaper share tipping exercises. At best, they are benign seasonal fun. But they have as much right to be taken seriously as party-poppers and neon-fashing revolving bow ties. No investor in his right mind would buy shares with the express intention of holding them for exactly 12 months any more than he would forgo the prudence of a diversified portfolio.

Warning number two said that with an election in the offing, monetary policy dancing to a Bundesbank tune and economic recovery proving elusive, stock picking was more than usually difficult. More unkind readers might say that the quality of the health warnings was better than the quality of the share selections. The outcome, however, was by no means ruinous though for much less effort a building society deposit would have produced almost as much reward.

Tempus said, correctly, that during 1991 investors had paid a price for anticipating economic recovery far too early and that the by now almost obligatory January rally might well be wiped out later. There was indeed a modestly buoyant start to the year. But while the City was successful in detecting green shoots of recovery, the electorate remained far more myopic. Worse, the opinion polls failed to spot growth of any colour and, until election day dawned, John Major seemed set for defeat. By then, the

early share gains had evaporated and the market was well below its New Year heights.

The post-election euphoria that followed the Conservative re-election lasted only a few weeks. Confidence was crushed by a string of corporate disasters and almost daily evidence that the economic medicine was not working. Businessmen knew that if it was not hurting it was not working. But they longed to know what to do when it was hurting plenty but still not working. The answer came in September, on Black Wednesday, but not before the post-election gains were dissipated and the broad market indicators almost 10 per cent down since January.

The sterling crisis blew itself out after withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism, and share prices took off at the prospect of lower interest rates and growth-led policies. Gains have been spectacular. The FT-SE 100 index surged almost 20 per cent between mid-September and Christmas. By then, it

	Jan 1992 price	Year end price	% gain or loss
SmithKline A	450	504	+ 12
Medeva	228	220	- 3.5
Reuter	1,032	1,410	+38.7
Cable & Wireless	590	693	+17.5
BTR	398	547	+37.4
Bus Technology	36	20	-44.4
Average gain			+ 9.3

\* To December 24 • Adjusted for split

was up just over 13 per cent on the year.

As a group, the Tempus selections fared less well, gaining just over 9 per cent. The collective record, however, was badly dented by a single stock, Business Technology, now being revamped by Tony Berry, former chairman of Blue Arrow. Its price plunged 44 per cent after harsh criticism of Mr Berry in a trade department report and moves by that department to have him disqualified from being a company director. Mr Berry rejects the DTI findings, but the affair damaged confidence in Business Technology shares.

Tempus picked the stock (as speculative) on the grounds that Mr Berry has a proven record in galvanising smaller companies and appears to be making giant strides at Business Technology. The fall was a reminder that in investment, image is all and that, when thrown, mud tends to stick.

The other let down was Medeva, the pharmaceuticals

group being assembled under Bernard Taylor, a former Glaxo executive. Medeva revealed profits 234 per cent higher while earnings per share climbed almost 150 per cent. But the shares slipped 3.5 per cent over the year. Medeva was a casualty of the conservatism that grips investors at troubled moments. Despite a rise from 228p to 300p early in the year, the market slump when election fever abated saw Medeva shares fall while other glamour rated shares did likewise. However, the company has a considerable following, as the share recovery later in the year showed. A stock to watch.

Pharmaceutical shares like Medeva and SmithKline Beecham were part of the Tempus strategy to pick shares in sectors likely to deliver earnings per share growth regardless of a sluggish economy. SmithKline's A shares rose only 12 per cent, though due to adverse currency movements affecting American profits and a general American-led disenchantment with

growth shares. This phenomenon and the resulting rush into recovery stocks on Wall Street threatened to harm the vast summer placing of shares in Wellcome. But while SmithKline, where Bob Bauman is chief executive, delivered the goods, many so-called recovery shares simply failed to beat the severity of the American recession.

Reuter simply repaid investors' faith in a company whose principal markets continue to make headway. The shares have been in overdrive since sterling's devaluation, which boosts dollar revenues. With the shares at about £14 by Christmas, talk of a share split encouraged further speculative buying.

Cable and Wireless shares, also chosen for recession-proof growth, were in a down trend for half the year. Prospects of fruitful ties with AT&T, of America, vanished as C&W forged links with United instead. City misunderstanding over restructuring costs announced in spring also hurt the shares. But they gained 40 per cent in the final quarter on currency considerations and the sale of a stake in Mercury to Bell Canada, to end almost 18 per cent up on the year.

BTR gained much from the acquisition of Hawker Siddley, and its share price likewise. BTR shares were especially in favour after Black Wednesday, when the potential translation gains from its large overseas operation were absorbed by the market. Their rise of 37 per cent made them the star of the Tempus 1992 selection and they remain a splendid long-term hold.



## Steel chief forecasts Community job losses

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A CONTINUED fall in European Community steel output next year will speed up plans for large-scale job cuts, says Ruprecht Vondran, president of the German Iron and Steel Association.

In western Germany, the Community's leading steel-making region, Dr Vondran predicted that the industry would have to increase its target for steel job reductions from 15,000 to 25,000 over the next two years.

His comments, in an interview in *Handelsblatt*, the financial newspaper, followed the pre-Christmas petition by Klöckner-Werke, the private-sector German steelmaker, for protection from creditors over its DM2.7 billion debts. The Klöckner move reflected severe financial difficulties in the German steel sector, arousing fears that its action marked the start of a serious shake-out that could spread throughout the Community.

Heinz Kriwet, management board chairman of Thyssen, the biggest German steelmaker, has predicted that, if the present downturn in output and earnings in steel continues, there would only be two or three privately-run, integrated steel mills in the Community by this time next year. Dr Vondran said the only solution was co-operation between the European Commission and industry.

The latest figures from the International Iron and Steel Institute show that, among the industrialised regions, Europe suffered the biggest annual falls in steel production in November. World industrialised production fell an annual 4.6 per cent but western Europe slumped 1.3 per cent.

THE threat from J. Sainsbury, Britain's biggest high street supermarket chain, to intensify the food price war succeeded in dragging the rest of the equity market lower.

The sudden drop in the stock market value of leading supermarket groups is estimated to have accounted for around 5 points of the overall market fall as investors decided the move was likely to result in an even greater squeeze on margins and a subsequent drop in profits.

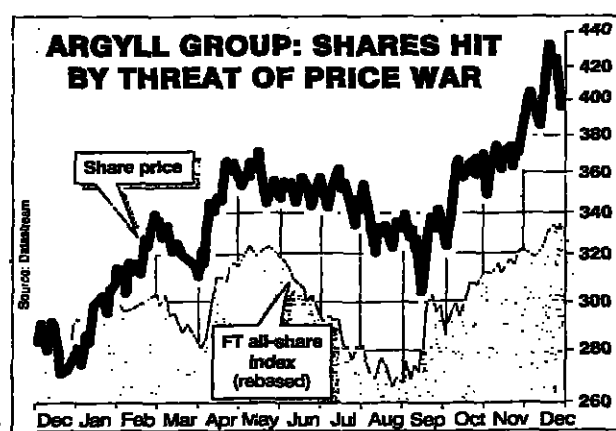
The Sainsbury challenge left it nursing a loss of 14p to 56p. But the biggest fall was seen in Argill, the Salford supermarket group, down 22p to 59p, as almost 4 million shares changed hands. Losses were also recorded in Asda, down 2p to 56p, Tesco, 15p to 251p, Iceland Frozen Foods, 10p to 621p, Kwik Save, 22p to 784p, and William Morrison Supermarkets, 8p to 164p.

But the message from brokers to investors last night over the threat was "don't panic". Tony MacNeary, at County NatWest, says: "It comes as no surprise. It's a repeat of last year. It's more aggressive than usual, but served Sainsbury well and is one they want to repeat."

Bill Myers at Henderson Croxall warns investors not to over-react: "The market has been looking for a reason to sell the sector and now they have found one. Tesco will certainly react to Sainsbury, so further downside is likely. But that will provide the opportunity to buy Argill and Sainsbury will offer the best value."

The worries about a food

# Sainsbury food war threat puts shares in the slicer



price war also took its toll of the food manufacturers on Tuesday. This figure was boosted by the placing of the nump in shares of USM-quoted Regal Hotels. By the close of business 116 million Regal shares had been traded. Regal returned from suspension at 4p following a boardroom reshuffle and details of the proposed acquisition of 2,832.5. Turnover was thin, with only 494 million shares traded. This figure was boosted by the placing of the nump in shares of USM-quoted Regal Hotels. By the close of business 116 million Regal shares had been traded. Regal returned from suspension at 4p following a boardroom reshuffle and details of the proposed acquisition of

It looks as if holiday makers are taking advantage of the tour operators' price war. Shares of holiday companies were all marked sharply higher yesterday, with Airtrips jumping 15p to 300p and Owners Abroad adding 7p to 94p. Brokers are convinced advanced bookings will show a big increase.

gaining the upper hand. They have been wanting to call prices lower for some time in the hope of picking up stock in the wake of the market's record breaking run. The overnight fall in Tokyo and a hesitant start to trading on Wall Street helped them in their cause. The FT-SE 100 index ended near its low for the day, down 15.3 at

ended an early fall to finish 5p dearer at £10.56 on a talk of a profits upgrading, a rare event these days.

Glasgow continued to make headway, climbing 11p to 785p in response to Tuesday's news that it has been given the go-ahead to market its meat. Its anti-migrant treatment in the US. Wellcome failed to make the most of the latest positive clinical trials on Retrovir, its anti-AIDS treatment, ending 13p lower at 962p. Tests carried out by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases revealed that Retrovir was superior to didanosine (ddi), its rival.

American International, the technical sciences group, eased 1p to 602p, with news that it had been granted permission by the US Food and Drug Administration to market its Indolir radio imaging agent coming too late to benefit the shares. Indolir will be used in conjunction with a process developed by Cytogen to diagnose bowel and ovarian cancer.

The initial euphoria that gripped the stores sector earlier this week on hopes of bumper new year showed signs of boiling over. There were losses for Boots, 1p to 549p, Great Universal Stores A, 7p to £17.13, Dixons, 5p to 263p, Marks and Spencer, 4p to 328p, John Menzies, 4p to 457p, Next, 4p to 145p, Rattners, 1p to 151p, WH Smith A, 10p to 500p and Storehouse, 1p to 206p. However, there was still selective support for Kingfisher, 6p better at 589p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Battered Nikkei ends year with slump

TRADERS and officials of the Tokyo Stock Exchange clapped out the old year in traditional style — and with a sigh of relief. Few regretted the passing of 1992, which saw the key Nikkei average plumb six-year lows and annual share turnover reach its lowest level in 17 years.

The Nikkei fell 360.69 points, or nearly 3 per cent, to end Wednesday's half-day session at 16,924.95. That is more than 6,000 points below last year's close, though well above a 77-month closing low of 14,509.41 posted on August 18.

The market is closed until January 4.

Index-linked selling battered prices as investors retreated to the sidelines. "People are certainly relieved to get 1992, the bear market's third consecutive year, behind them," said George Nimmo, a broker at SBC Securities.

When the session ended, those left gathered for traditional rhythmic hand clapping, marking ceremonial occasions. The Nikkei index has closed the year lower than it opened it for three straight years.

With no fresh buying incentives, technical sell programs took a heavy toll on prices. Turnover was about 90 million shares, with the broader first section Topix index down 18.72 points to 1,307.66.

The day's key declines were shares in the fishery, warehouse, brokerage, railway/bus, airline, miscellaneous manufacturing, pulp/paper, rubber, shipbuilding and banking sectors. (Reuters)

## Dow holds firm on end-of-year see-saw

New York — Shares firmed in choppy late-morning activity after wiping out all early session gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.02 at 3,317.86.

Analysts blamed the market's erratic activity on year-end portfolio trading when money managers sell their worst performers and replace them with market leaders.

Frankfurt — Shares ended a quiet final trading session for 1992 little changed from Tuesday. Dealers said volume was thin, with activity mainly geared to position-squaring. The DAX index managed to post a 2.28 point higher finish at 1,545.05. But the closing

level fell short of dealers' hopes that this week would bring a year-end rally, taking the index to within a few points of last year's finish of 1,577.98.

Sydney — A lethargic day's trading ended with the market closing slightly lower. The All Ordinaries index closed 0.8 points lower at 1,542.0. Turnover was 59.55 million shares, with 223 rises and 190 falls.

Hong Kong — Equities were firmer at the close after a session of slow and featureless trade within a 40-point range. The Hang Seng index was up 23.76 at 5,467.89. (Reuters)

Shaping the future, page 23

## STREET

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**PUBLISHING page 28**  
Madonna: her book *Sex*,  
condemned by some,  
was among the biggest  
successes of 1992

# ARTS

**BOOKS page 29**  
Winston Churchill at the  
time of the Archangel  
fiasco in 1919. Norman  
Stone on a new study



**CINEMA:** the gloss is new, but **Geoff Brown** finds *A Few Good Men* old-fashioned

## Courting always stays in style

Although their visual sheen may be staggering, and their computer technology breaks new frontiers with special effects, when it comes to scripts and stories Hollywood's movies have barely left the Stone Age. *A Few Good Men* (Odeon West End, 15) is as cocky and gleaming as its stars, Tom Cruise and Demi Moore: a film that begins as it means to proceed with a dazzling parade-ground ballet of marines at drill, guns lowered and raised like chorus girls' legs. Yet what lies behind these fireworks, the pin-ups strutting in tight-fitting naval uniforms? Just an old courtroom drama, no more, no less, with interrogations and histrionics that would be quite at home in *The Calve Mutiny* or the innumerable cases of Perry Mason.

As a first-time writer, Aaron Sorkin earns no prizes for originality. But he delivers familiar goods with a flourish. The script was first mounted on Broadway. Tom Hulce took the lead as Kaffee, an inexperienced, glib Navy lawyer suffering from the Famous Father Complex, who is appointed to defend two marines accused of murdering a platoon weaver. The sets were spare; the chief props, tables and chairs.

Hollywood, and director Rob Reiner, saw the potential immediately. Out went Hulce; in came Cruise, America's most affable heart-throb, and a good enough actor to bring off the legal jousting or the smouldering badinage with Demi Moore, the shapeliest of special defence counsel.

In place of bare tables and chairs, in came a well-oiled backdrop of Washington monuments, baseball practice, and flying visits to the Cuba base where the black deed was done. In came Jack Nicholson, too, deliciously



The defence counsel in informal consultation: Demi Moore and Tom Cruise in Rob Reiner's film version of Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men*

stealing his few scenes as the gimlet-eyed colonel manning the bulwarks against Castro, who gave the accused leave to punish the victim through a do-it-yourself disciplinary action known in the services as a "Code Red".

Sorkin's script carries a heavy freight: there is much

talk about God, country and codes of honour. But Hollywood works its own alchemy. Any serious concerns get gobbled up by the spectacle of stars on parade, dressed to kill. For this is a film where clothes speak volumes. The government prosecution, anxious to hide the "Code Red" business,

dress in unbecoming khaki or combat green. The defence, by contrast, are breathtakingly dressed in crisp all-whites or deep navy blue enriched with gold braid. So attired, Cruise and Moore win their case even before they open their mouths.

Yet even this surface gloss

carries a subliminal message. Right from the opening shot of the marine corps' succulent polished shoes, this is a film seduced by America's defence establishment, like Tom Cruise's earlier venture, the odious *Top Gun*. Cruise's young pup of a lawyer may strike a maverick blow at the

establishment, but the system still stands proudly: it is only Jack Nicholson's grungy outpost at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that lets down the Stars and Stripes. Impressively acted all down the line, and directed with much quiet skill, *A Few Good Men* is a devilishly seductive entertainment.

### TELEVISION REVIEW

## Good intentions are not enough

**A House for Pele**  
Channel 4

The film crew responsible for last night's Channel 4 documentary, *A House for Pele*, committed what is supposed to be the unpardonable sin. They became involved with their subjects, a family of street people living rough at Copacabana in Brazil, and decided to intervene in their lives.

They had a whip-round, collected enough to buy a tiny house in a shanty settlement, and gave it to Pele, his woman, and their two children. To be honest, the recipients did not appear especially delighted. They moved in, pottered around, held a barbecue, sang a song with their friends, and acquired a few sticks of furniture. But they never settled, and were soon back on the streets.

Good intentions had once again proved blind. But if the crew's generosity did nothing else, it transformed their film from a self-indulgent meander into something altogether more cogent. For half an hour Pele and his pals had been muttering that all they needed was somewhere to live: given a home, they quickly proved that their life on the streets was not the result of misfortune alone.

The film made a good pair with one broadcast a few months ago about a homeless woman who lives near Embankment Tube station in London. She too had had her chances, but opted in the end for the street life. Perhaps the homeless are so damaged that they can no longer handle good fortune; or perhaps — difficult for the well-meaning to imagine — they just prefer living the way they do and should be left alone to do it.

Certainly Pele seemed a survivor. His family washed their clothes under a fire hydrant, laid them out to dry on the flower beds along the beach, and emerged shining clean, as the poor of Latin America so often and so

astonishingly manage to do. They looked wholesome, and protected their two infants with a fierce pride, sleeping on top of them like birds for fear they would be stolen in the night.

They made a living hawking, washing cars, doing odd jobs and stealing when all else failed. "We're 'run-afters'," said one of Pele's friends. "We run after any work, anything to get money to keep clean and buy clothes. We're not beggars, we're sufferers." They told sad tales of their misfortunes, and went with quiet dignity when the police rounded them up, stuck them in a bus, and took them off to a remote corner of the city. The local middle-class disdained them: one woman snapped that the babies should be taken away and adopted, and their parents "castrated".

Pele's friends knew as soon as he moved into his tiny house, with pretty tile roof, that it would not work. The family found they could not sleep indoors. The neighbours, sensitive to the fine gradations of poverty, resented street people moving into their shum. There was a suggestion that the previous owner had sent in heavies to frighten the family away, or that Pele had let a prostitute use the house.

Whatever the reason, the newly-housed were soon back on the streets, and not even together any longer. One child died, and the couple separated. Grim as it sounds, this was a lightly-handled look at poverty. One of a season which continues tonight and tomorrow night under the rubric "One Family". It drew its pictures in a few swift strokes: not profound, but telling.

NIGEL HAWKES

## The French have a word for it

Fashions come and go in art-house product, but the lure of French cinema remains constant. Compared to the hard-fisted, tongue-tied English, French film characters know supremely well how to talk intelligently, make love and contemplate their navel. Look at Eric Rohmer. He has built an entire career out of loquacious, self-absorbed people toying with moral, religious or romantic choices. Yet they never live in a vacuum: you come away smelling pungent black coffee, the stale air of the Paris Metro, or the ocean spray on a summer beach.

*A Winter's Tale*, second in his new cycle "Les Quatres Saisons", comes close to his best. In its density of talk, this rivals his films of the late Sixties. The higher-blown words come from Loïc, a librarian, head lost in books. But Rohmer's no-nonsense heroine, Parisian hairdresser Félicie, also talks her head off, as her heart hesitates between the intellectual Loïc, her burly bourgeois boss Maxence, and the long-lost man of her dreams (father of her five-year-old daughter).

Like many Rohmer girls, Félicie, petulant and dithering, hardly courts sympathy. But Rohmer has a precious knack for making us care, and letting unknown actresses sparkle. Tight-faced Charlotte Véry is the beneficiary here, though in many scenes the emotional weight rests with Félicie's

**A Winter's Tale**  
*Chelsea Cinema, Renoir, 12*  
*Tous les Matins du Monde*  
*Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill, 12*  
*Labyrinth of Passion*  
*Metro*  
Artaud season National Film Theatre

daughter (Ava Loraschi), who with few complaints accompanies her mother's quest from her parental nook to Loïc's apartment to Maxence's new business in Nevers.

Rohmer, 73 next April, assembles his tale with an old master's ease, cunningly lacing the realistic surface with hints, then eruptions, of magic. Here Shakespeare's own *Winter's Tale* comes into play. Watching the scene where Hermione's statue comes to life, Félicie becomes newly convinced that her dream man will return from nowhere. Rohmer keeps us waiting too long for the resolution; but we willingly wait as the pageant of life passes by.

Rohmer's art has always been for connoisseurs. *Tous les Matins du Monde* would seem equally aimed at small, devoted audiences. Characters wear long wigs and play the viola da gamba; the film resurrects the life and music of Marin Marais and his hermit teacher, Sainte-Colombe, in the days of Louis XIV.

Yet the French public have already queued in large numbers. Initially they were attracted by the thought of Gérard Depardieu (he plays the older Marais), and the film debut of his son Guillaume (Marais the young blade). But word of mouth spread: this was a film with a magic atmosphere, a button-holing performance by Jean-Pierre Marielle as Sainte-Colombe, and music of grave beauty (played on the soundtrack by Jordi Savall and other specialists). At France's annual cinema awards, *Tous les Matins* scooped up seven Césars, including Best Film, Best Director, Music and Photography.

The director, Alain Corneau, came to local prominence with urban thrillers. Here there are no squealing cars, or even sedan chairs; the lessons learned in sustaining tension are now applied to relationships. Precocious Marais becomes a pupil of the morose Sainte-Colombe, who grieves for his lost wife. Worldly temptations rupture their bond: Marais falls for Sainte-

Colombe's eldest daughter (easy enough when she is Anne Brochet), and the glittering prizes of Louis XIV's court. Each time Marais appears, he wears more brocade, more lipstick, brooches and bows. Yet the film's heart lies in intimate affairs: the mysteries of the creative process, bereavement, the ties between master and pupil.

Depardieu the younger makes a creditable debut, while his father empowers the older Marais with his usual strength. But the face that haunts this magical, melancholy film belongs to Jean-Pierre Marielle as Sainte-Colombe, the proud but humble reclus who exists only to transmute his pain into aching notes for the viola da gamba. *Tous les Matins*, written by Pascal Quignard, photographed largely in sombre shadows and candlelight, could easily have become an airless museum piece. But Corneau and his team craft a living lament for lost love and high ideals: a film to touch the stoniest heart.

Try the National Film Theatre for French cinema's past, in the January season of films blessed by the stark, penetrating features of Antonin Artaud — actor, theoretician, progenitor of the Theatre of Cruelty. In the Twenties he thought cinema "more exciting than philosophy, more captivating than love", and devised outlandish scenarios, such as *The Sea-Shell and the Clergyman*. By the Thirties, after a few acting chores too many, his passion had turned to disgust. Yet he worked with many gifted directors: Dreyer, most memorably, in *The Passion of Joan of Arc*; with Gance, Lang, and Marcel L'Herbier in *L'Argent*, an extraordinary exercise in high style.

Artaud apart, curiosity seekers must rest content with the measly rewards of Pedro Almodóvar's *Labyrinth of Passion*, his second feature, made in 1982. The script rounds up sex-crazed damsels: a deposed Arab emperor's son, and a gynaecologist who practises artificial insemination on bachelors. It is hollow stuff, raw juvenilia from a director still to find his feet.

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Félicie (Charlotte Véry) and Loïc (Hervé Furic) in Eric Rohmer's *A Winter's Tale*







As the West grapples with Bosnia's plight, Norman Stone looks at the lessons of allied intervention in an earlier civil war

## Churchill's weakest hour

CHURCHILL AND THE  
ARCHANGEL FIASCO  
November 1918-July 1919  
By Michael Kettle  
Routledge, £60

Nearly the whole of the British press, *The Guardian* in the lead, has been urging intervention in Bosnia, a cause that anyone decent immediately understands. The Foreign Office has not responded in the same style, although this week Douglas Hurd has stated that he can now imagine armed action against the Serbs to prevent a general Balkan war.

Muddle, even farce, result. Our boys have had to intervene, rather bravely taking supplies. They do so with great ingenuity and fabulous organisation along snowy hair-pin bends in mountains. However, there is a very large airport at a place called Tuzla, where supplies could be flown in to support the Bosnian population through the winter. The local Serbs have said: out of bounds. Rather than lever these people out, as in days of yore, British troops put up with their mountain odyssey, their own misery constantly grumbling as to how difficult it all is.

However, this ministry has an argument or two. There is a

principle involved, with some woe-ful precedents. Intervening in civil wars is tricky. Of this, there is good evidence in Michael Kettle's book about British doings in the Russian civil war of 1917-21. This is a labour of enormous scholarship, a life's work, of which the third (of five projected) volumes now appears.

It takes the story from November 1918, when foreign troops were all around the periphery of Russia, to the middle of 1919, when the anti-Bolshevik side began dramatically to collapse, and most of the foreign troops were withdrawn. The British were mainly involved in north Russia—Archangel—but they had an interest in the Far East, and a rather more substantial one, what with oil, in southern Russia and the Caucasus. By the middle of 1919, they had withdrawn from the

north, in an episode of prodigious muddle, over which the presiding genius was Churchill's.

This, as with everything to do with Russia, was an extremely complicated business. It has surreal touches all around—Senegalese guards the Donbass mines. Czechs in Omsk, the tail-end of Bulgarov's White Guard in Kiev, as the German occupants scramble with their puppet-ruler to the west, leaving the Russian bourgeoisie of the city at the mercy of Ukrainian nationalists on the one side, and Bolsheviks on the other, with assorted anarchists trundling around to complicate matters.

Then there was wrangling between the supposedly intervening powers. The French, taking and then abandoning Odessa in an epic of brutality and incompetence which appalled their British "al-

lies", actually charged refugee Russians a fee for boarding their own ships. As was to happen again and again as the century wore on, the British also found their American allies very difficult—one thing one minute, another the next. Clearly, in the Far East, American support for intervention was necessary—if only because (another complication) the Japanese had to be contained. But the Americans were not really ready for a display of their world power. They put a toe into Siberian waters, enough to brand them later as interventionists, but

did not go far enough to make the Whites in that region sufficiently powerful to win.

The result of all this was that the allied intervention proceeded in great disarray. Only the British were really trusted and liked by the anti-Bolshevik Russians (even then there were problems: volunteer RAF officers found the Russians' lack of co-ordination in the air extremely irritating, though the tank-crew trainers were more complimentary).

Churchill, at the War Office, kept prodding for more forthright behaviour. He was supported by a large part of the Tory party, breathing anti-German and anti-Bolshevik fire in debates that Kettle faithfully records. The prime minister, Lloyd George, nevertheless had to deal with considerable opposition. This was not just the Labour

party. More important were the trade unions, for whom "no more war" was as urgent as support for the alleged socialist regime in Russia.

And then there were the troops. British conscripts were very well aware of the sentiment "we're here because we're here", but there were limits to their patience. The Somme had been bad enough. Why prolong things in, of all places, the snowy wastes of the Kola peninsula? There were mutinies, though nothing to compare with mutinies among the French interventionists in the south. Lloyd George never, therefore, gave Churchill the backing he needed.

Finally, the Whites. Kettle's book is not about the Russian side, though he gives sufficient of the background to explain what was

going on. We still need a proper history of the Russian civil war, though it would take a master of the art to put across the story. However, there is a melancholy 20th-century theme in the collapse of counter-revolutions, from the Russians' experience in 1920-1 to the fall of Shanghai and the fall of Saigon, via Havana and Managua.

Nearly every British observer, though often knowing and greatly liking the Russians, found them difficult: fractious, inclined to put small matters first, and then self-pityingly disorganised. In Novorossiysk, the base-port of Denikin's volunteer army, there were even different times on the public clocks—one for Moscow time, another for Constantinople time, another for local time. You had to fix an advance by which clock you would be late for an appointment.

In Kettle's next volume, he will have to tell the story of the Whites' final evacuation from Novorossiysk, in March 1920—one of the epic disasters in the history of failed counter-revolutions. I look forward to reading it.

## Dictators of national culture

Daniel Johnson

THE ARTS OF THE  
THIRD REICH  
By Peter Adam  
Thames & Hudson, £24.95  
STALINIST  
ARCHITECTURE  
By Alexei Tarkhanov and  
Sergei Kavtaradze  
Laurence King, £35

At the great Paris World Exhibition of 1937, two monstrous neo-classical structures arose next to the Seine: deliberately overshadowing all the rest, they seemed to confront one another like primeval predators. The Soviet Pavilion by Boris Iofan was crowned by Vera Mukhina's colossal statue—welded from steel plates hot from the furnaces of the new industrial economy—of "The Worker and the Collective Farm Girl". The two giants, 25 metres high, were shown rushing headlong towards the future, brandishing hammer and sickle. Blocking their path through space, a massive, windowless tower rears up ahead, surmounted by an eagle: Albert Speer's German Pavilion. These salutes in stone and steel are typical of the gargantuan follies that fill two excellent books: *The Arts of the Third Reich* and *Stalinist Architecture*.

In two years the Soviet Union has disintegrated, just about the same time that the Third Reich took to the collapse between the battles of Stalingrad and Berlin. Future historians will be able to compare the many legacies of these two empires rather more objectively than could be done while Soviet communism still existed. The similarities between their crimes are legion, but the art and architecture of Russian and German totalitarianism are among the most enduring and, strangely, least known of these legacies.

The alien and repulsive quality of official Soviet and especially Nazi aesthetics to British eyes cannot alone explain this ignorance. Indeed, the ignorance partly explains the hostility. Most people do not have the same prejudice against the music which Shostakovich or Richard Strauss composed under these regimes, because music seems abstract, at one more remove from politics than the visual arts.

But not everything that was painted, sculpted or built in the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1991, or in Germany from 1933 to 1945, was mediocre. Only an ideologue would suppose that they were. The most objectionable kind of historicism maintains that each high culture is merely a product of given social and economic circumstances, that the Bible or the plays of

Shakespeare are widgets and nothing more.

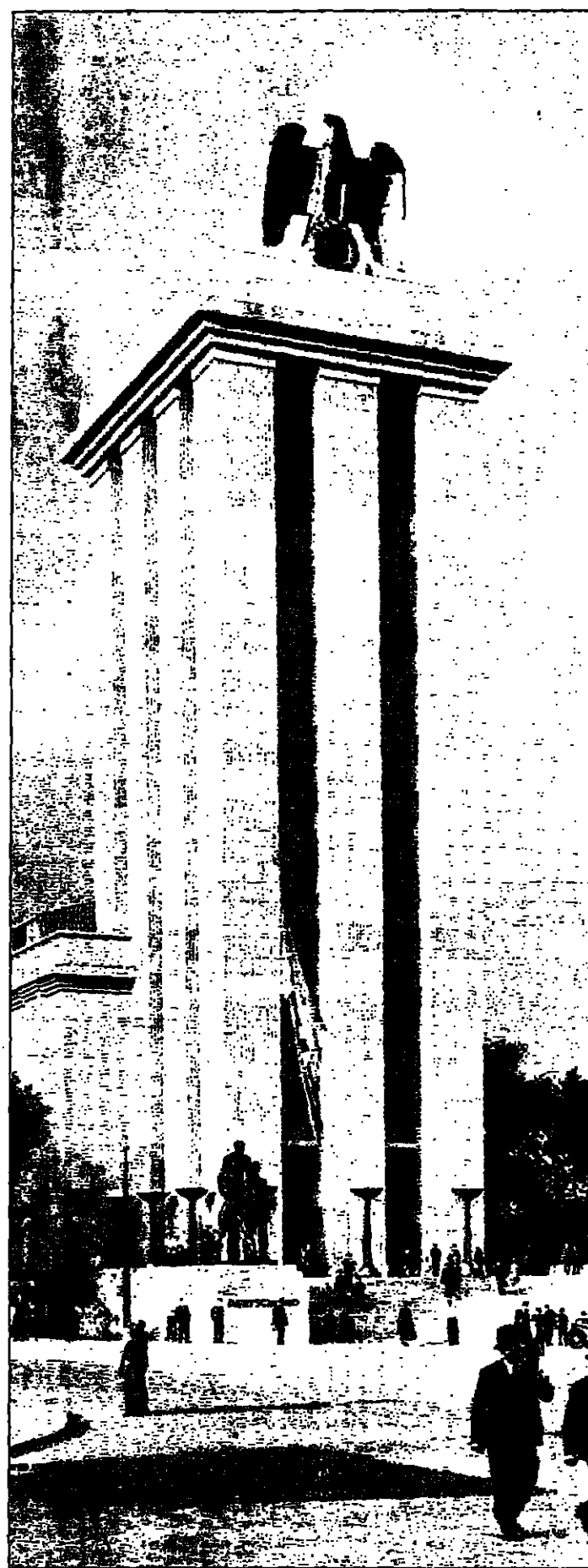
Peter Adam's conclusion, however, is that Nazi art and architecture were merely the visible projection of "absolute authority", and consequently worthless. "There is no doubt that the masses and the National Socialist leadership had the same taste," he declares. Why in that case was the "Entartete Kunst" exhibition of banned artists so popular? Actually not all Nazis agreed about aesthetics, and in architecture the break between the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich is not instantly obvious, as Adam admits when he discusses examples such as Tempelhof airport in Berlin.

The Soviet empire underwent several cultural revolutions, as Tarkhanov and Kavtaradze show. Stalin's personal views on architecture were as vehemently held as Hitler's: both dictators liked neo-classicism—a style which predominated throughout the 19th century in the cities they knew.

But how different were the buildings the two rivals bequeathed! In Hitler's handful of surviving monuments the classical orders and forms are transformed into obedient functionaries. Stalin's byzantine and oriental love of complexity for its own sake give his legacy an ornate exuberance that is more gothic than neo-classical. Stalin liked American skyscrapers and produced his own "wedding cake" imitations; Hitler had no time for them, but admired Hausmann's Parisian boulevards. The Nazis, whose empire lasted 12 years, built to last; apart from the ghastly ruins at Nuremberg, those that were not bombed or demolished are still in use. The Soviet Union, which lasted 70 years, tried to create utopia on the cheap; its structures are already crumbling.



Monstrous neo-classical structures: the Soviet (left) and the German (right) pavilions overshadowed the 1937 World Exhibition



## A noble battle for truth

Lesley Chamberlain

THE CZAR'S MADMAN  
By Jaan Kross  
Translated by Anselm Hollo  
from the Finnish Edition by  
Ivo Ilise  
Harvill, £14.99

This gripping novel of the folly of idealism, set in the post-Napoleonic Russian empire, has helped Jaan Kross to the stature of world-class novelist as a result of its recent belated discovery in the West. First published in Estonian in 1978, it won the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger in 1989.

The enigmatic life of Timo von Bock, related in the journal of his brother-in-law Jakob Menik, poses the question whether a human life is wasted when sacrificed to unworkable ideals. Von Bock (his name means "stubborn") is a Baltic German aristocrat in the service of the Russian Tsar Alexander. He loves his Estonian homeland in the extent of marrying a low-born, local woman, Jakob's sister.

Tsar Alexander, known historically for his reign's sudden volte-face from a generous liberalism to imperial repression, both falls in love with Timo and betrays him, having him imprisoned as a madman. Jakob's diary, alternating between the periods before, during and after Timo's incarceration, queries this "madness".

Jakob is an ordinary soul. His consistent settling for something less than ideal is meant to seem starkly modern in contrast with Timo's nobility of a lost age. Kross has cleverly linked Timo to the Decembrist insurrection, the only time young Russian aristocrats rose against the autocracy. Perhaps it was necessary in the Tallinn of 1978 to make an enquiry into Timo's sanity seem the central focus of this remarkable novel, but what really drives it is the dynamism of ideas, deftly deployed on a vivid historical canvas.

How can a man of such certainty and leading a life of such purity be real, cries the woefully second-class Jakob, as if for all of us. And, of course, it is Jakob's weakness in solitude, his imperfect love affairs and his inability to fix his identity through heartfelt commitment, the disorder of his feeble thoughts yet still containing goodwill, which actually grip the reader.

An outdated, almost forgotten moral beauty struggles through these pages with the force of modern, well-meaning compromise. Absolute goodness against a vagueness which is not evil, is simply inadequate. Through the use of manuscripts casually lost, found, stolen and wilfully destroyed, and a sly afterword purporting to distinguish fact from fiction, Kross locates his own act of writing in a world where truth has become little more than accidental.

What a comfort it must have been to write—and read—this book in the former Soviet Estonia! It is both a testament to the roots of local life, so cut off from the larger world, and an evocation of the old idea of world citizenship which is still our only hope. What other treasures have we missed from those so long unfree lands?

William Keegan is the economics editor of the *Observer*. His book is very up-to-date. It is, in fact, state-of-the-art, since it expresses the three fundamental propositions of the new post-Thatcherite, post-communist consensus: communism has failed; unrestricted free-market capitalism is also grotesque; and, therefore, we need "careful, pragmatic coordination" between government and private enterprise.

We have to remember throughout that Keegan is an economics editor. He thinks in pounds and pence (or, perhaps in Ecus, marks and yen). His worst accusation is to call something "expensive". Communism he describes as "an expensive detour both in terms of the tens of millions of lives lost... and in terms of the feeble economic performance". This is the highest refinement of state-of-the-art Ecus-speak. Note the calm understatement of "feeble economic performance", and the careful pricing of "tens of millions of lives lost... not 'extremely expensive', not even 'very expensive', just... 'expensive'".

Certain other minor defects of communism do not even warrant a mention. The torture of those who voiced dissent and the foundation of a society on fear, fawning, indoctrination and lies, were, we are presumably to conclude, cheap.

Thatcherite, "free-market" capitalism is also, in Keegan's view, a "detour", creating, *inter alia*, the persistent traffic jam in Bangkok, "contempt for manufacturing industry", macroeconomic ineptitude and the inefficiencies engendered by hostile takeovers.

## Called to expense account

Oliver Letwin

THE SPECTRE OF  
CAPITALISM  
The Future of the World  
Economy after the  
Fall of Communism  
By William Keegan  
Hutchinson, £16.99

The reason why this is so wrong, in the view of the economics editor, is—unsurprisingly—that it is... expensive, because it undermines the acceptability of capitalism and hence the wealth that capitalism can produce.

Like communism, it stands in severe danger of producing that worst of all possible worlds, feeble economic performance. Whether Thatcherism does or does not (as its proponents believe) encourage independence of spirit and vigour of mind is not, in Keegan's opinion, worth discussing. No Ecus hang on the matter.

But this is not just a book about expensive detours. Keegan sees clearly, and vouchsafes to us the way ahead. From his desk at the *Observer* and while chugging in three

Bangkok traffic jams, Keegan has been able to survey the miracles of Japan and Germany. A great light has shone upon him. He has discovered that they are (oh, glory) rich. He has, moreover, discovered why. Central planning, public works and nationalised industries are the very things that have made all those lucky Japanese and Germans so phenomenally rich.

In short, and this is Keegan's state-of-the-art discovery, government intervention in a capitalist market is the solution to the problem of life.

Keegan is not giving us this stunning insight merely to enlarge our understanding of the world. He has a practical purpose. He aims to launch a crusade against the real villains of the modern world: the finance ministers who are setting Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary on a free-market course. These chaps, we are told, are not doing nearly enough in the way of government intervention and central planning. The result will be, indeed already is, expensive.

This is news indeed. Who would have thought that the real problem in central Europe was lack of government intervention? Pre-Keegan, it seemed so plausible that the cause of the problem was the effect of communism on the spirit, structure and intellectual assumptions of these societies.

But now we know: those good old communists were just a bit feeble economically: the real "spectre" (Keegan's phrase) is rampant Thatcherism. It could cause terrible traffic jams in Warsaw, and that would be horribly expensive.

## Poet without a home

Adam Zamoyski

BEGINNING WITH MY  
STREETS  
By Czesław Miłosz  
Translated by  
Madeline G. Levine  
J.B. Tauris, £19.95

More fireside chat than essay, the *gawęda*, Miłosz points out, is a literary form unique to Poland, and this collection of reminiscences, lectures, reviews and obituaries illustrates it rather well. Miłosz really does begin with his streets: the streets of pre-war Wilno, now Vilnius— which he invests with all the magical other-worldliness and evocative power that make his poetry live.

"Two things cannot be reduced to rationalising: time and beauty," writes Miłosz, quoting his mentor Simone Weil, and these two subjects run through all the pieces in this collection, whatever they might be about. He adds to these a preoccupation of his own, namely geography. Not so much the physical topography of the Earth, more the human geography of culture.

These preoccupations go far to explain Miłosz's brilliance and his shortcomings, both as a man and a poet. He is a wanderer in time and space, part refugee, part fugitive. He has never felt at ease in his surroundings. "The dimension that my eyes dimly perceived in the Thirties," he writes, "did not belong to the general Polish dimension, so my place was among the 'outsiders', because they were Jews or because they were communists or communist sympathisers. No matter where I turned, however, there was nowhere where I felt at home." Since settling in the United

States, he has been a European stranded in the New World. But he feels similarly foreign when he is in Europe, as for him there are "two Europes".

When he is in Warsaw he is conscious of being cut off from the main stem of European civilisation, when he is in Paris he is aware that he belongs to that other Europe, the one which was "destined to descend into the heart of darkness of the twentieth century" and was initiated into the great mystery of our age. For Miłosz believes that the Holocaust—not just the Jewish Holocaust, but the whole Bolshevik-Nazi package—represents a quantum leap in the historical process. To him, nothing can ever be the same again, and this presents him with his greatest challenge as a poet and a thinker. Quite simply, he asks whether traditional poetry and thought can have any relevance now.

This perception of himself as straddling continents, cultures and historical experiences lends power to his vision, both philosophical

and poetic. His literary formation and his points of reference are equally broad-based and heterogeneous. Authors who influenced him during his adolescence include such apparently random names as Adam Mickiewicz, William Gray, Fenimore Cooper, Thomas Traherne, Alphonse Daudet and Thomas Mann.

This kind of magpie approach to literature, dictated to some extent by availability, is not untypical of eastern European writers. It has the merit of producing a less programmed sensibility than that of most western writers, whose formation is often fashion-led. His provincial literary upbringing also has the effect of leaving him with a trace of naivety, or possibly innocence, which no doubt accounts for the sense of wonder with which he approaches everything, a wonder that enhances his poetic perception.

Miłosz's sense of identity is, however, a little suspect. His view of history, on which he relies so much, is shaky and sometimes flawed. So is the "Lithuanianness" he clings to so insistently. It seems to be based above all on a need to escape from a "Polishness" that he sees as a threat, but one that few Poles would recognise. He is left in California, blinking not so much at the sun as at the incomprehensibility of it all.

Although the collection is patchy, this is a book well-worth dipping into, permeated with arresting thought and observation.

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# Be positive about the vetting

Managers seeking  
backing for  
buy-outs face  
rigorous scrutiny.  
Clare Hogg reports

One of the most stringent vetting processes a manager is ever likely to be subjected to is the scrutiny of the financial backers in the case of a management buy-in or buy-out.

Take the case of Rob Shotton, managing director of the Green Bank Drinks Company. Originally a director of Brent Walker, Brewing and Trading, he supported his boss in a bid to buy the brewery. The process involved many meetings and endless presentations.

Mr Shotton came to know a lot of the potential backers. The bid was unsuccessful, but subsequently Mr Shotton was given the opportunity of buying the bottling plant. The contacts he had already made proved very valuable.

"The first contact you make," Mr Shotton says, "is crucial. You need something which will put you at the top of the pile." First, he advises, "you need to make sure somehow that you are listened to. Then the financiers will ask what are you doing and why do you want some money? You should be able to produce something which is relevant, meaningful and well-constructed."

At great expense, Mr Shotton used Price Waterhouse to help with the business plan and advise on the presentation, how to handle likely questions, and so on. He is sure that this was an important factor in getting to the top.

But from there, the investigative process goes much deeper. As Mr Shotton explains, "there's not much you can do if you are not competent in the first place. The investors listened and questioned us very closely."

The next step involved the use by the investors of independent industry experts. "Those who are specialist in a particular industry only have to walk around a factory to see whether it is well or badly managed," Mr Shotton says. In his view, the industry experts played an important role in revealing the professionalism of the management team.

The third and last hurdle for Mr



Ready for anything: Rob Shotton, of the Green Bank Drinks Company, had to undergo very close scrutiny before his buy-out

Shotton was the follow-up of his personal references. "They spoke to my former MD and asked not just 'how good is he at his present job', but also 'how will he act when he is in overall control, has he got the strengths and weaknesses?' By dint of all this research, Mr Hughes

tries to piece together an objective picture of the individual. Next, Mr Hughes looks at the team as a whole and how it operates. This is an awkward area, and has to be dealt with sensitively. It is at this stage that an assessment is made as to where the power lies in the group, and to what extent a natural leader (which should be the chief executive) emerges.

The thorough methods used by Kleinwort Benson are not as widespread as they should be. According to MSL, a consultancy with its own experience of a buy-out from Saatchi & Saatchi, the question of personal skills and qualities is approached in a generally "amateur and almost cavalier fashion".

"It's all very haphazard," Gary Long, MSL's chairman, says. Many backers, he says, are flattered by being approached in the beginning and adopt the approach: "I can tell a good chap when I see one."

Sadly, Mr Long says, MSL tends to get called in two or three years too late, when the decision has been made, and the arrangement is not working. Lack of entrepreneurial flair is often a cause, Mr Long points out that the reason the company is for sale in the beginning may be something to do with the quality of management, and if it is for sale because of

"There's not much you can do if you're not competent in the first place"

difficult trading conditions, these will not improve when ownership changes. When called in during the initial stages of a buy-out, MSL very occasionally recommends that a deal does not go ahead. When things go wrong after a buy-out and success proves elusive, the subsequent restructuring of the equity and debt arrangements results in disappointed, demotivated and poorer management owners.

Mr Hughes' advice to managers seeking backing for a buy-out is "be your own natural self". He points out that over the extended period of negotiations, it is very difficult to cover up anything significant. "You have meeting after meeting about private and family matters..."

"And don't be too frightened of the process. The backers need to feel very comfortable with the management team. It's like a marriage: the wedding is fine, but it's really a long-term process."

## LIFE AFTER REDUNDANCY

### A helping hand for the executive

Outplacement may not be among the best things in life, but the fact that job search advice and help is available free through the employment department's Executive Job Clubs is not as well known as it should be. There are 111 of these operating throughout the UK, of which 42 are in London and the South East.

While Executive Job Clubs are not as well resourced as commercial outplacement firms, they do provide an acceptable alternative. Apart from counselling, Job Club members have access for six months to free telephones, post, fax and word processors.

So why don't more out-of-work managers join? John Gallacher, a former recruitment executive who is now Job Club leader in the London Borough of Wandsworth, says: "You are not entitled to collect unemployment benefit if you have had payment in lieu of notice, so those who received sizeable redundancy

packages often don't register as unemployed — some never do, for reasons of pride."

However, information on Job Clubs comes in the first instance through JobCentres or unemployment benefit offices, so if you do want to join one, you should sign on, even if you are not entitled to benefit at the time. You can only become a Job Club member after you have been unemployed for six months, but it is advisable to put your name down early, because some areas have waiting lists.

There is also an interim service to which you are entitled after being unemployed for three months. This is a job review and seminar which offers two days of expert advice on seeking a job.

Don Crighton, 49, a marketing executive, had to wait four months, on top of the six for which he had already been unemployed, to join the Job Club at Kingston-on-Thames, southwest London. "It was fantastically useful," he says. "Not only in

terms of the counselling but from the contact with others in the same boat." The members came from a variety of business backgrounds and had been earning about £30-£40,000 a year. "We all got on well, and there was a lot of frank feedback between us about our respective methods and aims. It provided the kind of focus you don't get from family and friends."

Mr Crighton said that some club members had felt isolated and depressed but were re-energised by the Job Club process. Mr Gallacher emphasises the value of keeping up morale. "Ninety per cent of success at interviews is attitude," he says. "We also teach the methods and techniques which enable people to be more positive about selling themselves."

These are very similar, in a shortened form, to those used by commercial outplacement firms. Wandsworth holds three-day seminars for new members, in groups of about 12, on all aspects of the job search, concentrating on self-marketing, which John Gallacher has found to be a weakness. The seminar is followed up by four half-day sessions on a one-to-one basis. "About the only standard outplacement hardware we don't provide are videocameras for interview practice. We find role playing more effective," Mr Gallacher says.

He claims an impressive success rate. About 70 per cent of members get jobs within 12 months. Nationally, Job Clubs claim success rates of 50 per cent. Mr Gallacher does, however, admit that many Job Club candidates have to take a drop in salary. "Forget about salary, and think about role," is his advice. "Your first priority is to return to the job that is right for you."

GODFREY GOLZEN

Details of Job Clubs are contained in the employment department booklet EMPL 45, Just The Job.

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## The Times calendar of

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Jan 2-3: NFL wild-card play-offs.  
Jan 8-16: NFL divisional play-offs.  
Jan 17: NFL conference finals.  
Jan 31: NFL Super Bowl XXVII, Pasadena, California.  
Sep 5: NFL season opens.

## ARCHERY

Mar 28: National indoor championships, NIA, Birmingham.  
June 12-13: UK Masters, Lilleshall.  
June 30-July 2: GNAM, Lilleshall.  
Aug 14-15: British target championships, Lilleshall.  
Aug 29-30: National compound championships, Holton, Aylesbury.

## ATHLETICS

Jan 2: IAAF World Cross challenge, Durham.  
Jan 8: IAAF World Cross challenge, Belfast.  
Jan 17: IAAF World Cross challenge, Seattle.  
Jan 24: IAAF World Cross challenge, Tourcoing, France.  
Jan 30: Pearl Assurance indoor games, Glasgow.  
Jan 30-31: Indoor meeting, three nations v Great Britain, Iba, Spain.  
Jan 31: IAAF World Cross challenge, San Sebastian, Spain.  
Feb 6: World cross-country British trials (including inter-counties championship), Corby.  
Feb 7: IAAF World Cross challenge, Algarve, indoor meeting, Belgium v England, Ghent.  
Feb 13: Vaudeville indoor international, Great Britain v United States, Birmingham.  
Feb 13-14: AAA under-20 indoor championships, Birmingham.  
Feb 14: IAAF World Cross challenge, Diekirch, Luxembourg.  
Feb 20: TSB indoor international, Birmingham: English women's cross-country championships.  
Feb 21: IAAF World Cross challenge, Chiba, Japan.  
Feb 28: IAAF invitation, Melbourne.  
Feb 28-29: AAA indoor championships, Birmingham.  
Feb 27: IAAF World Cross challenge, Nairobi: English men's national cross-country championships, Parliament Hill.  
Mar 5: IAAF World Cross challenge, San Vittore, Italy.  
Mar 12-14: World indoor championships, Toronto.  
Mar 20: National relays, Mansfield.  
Mar 28: IAAF World Cross challenge, Amorebieta, Spain.  
Apr 18: Nutwest London Marathon.  
May 5: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, São Paulo, Brazil.  
May 22: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, New York.  
May 25: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, San Jose, US.  
May 29-30: Italy v Czechoslovakia v Great Britain, Alzano, Italy.  
May 31: IAAF invitation, Vancouver, CA: CAU championships, Southampton.  
June 6: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 11: IAAF invitation, Bratislava, Czech Republic.  
June 14: Pearl Assurance relays, Portsmouth.  
June 15: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Sevilla.  
June 16: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 17: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 18: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 19: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 20: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 21: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 22: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 23: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 24: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 25: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 26: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 27: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 28: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 29: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.  
June 30: IAAF/Mobil grand prix, Lilleshall.

## BASEBALL

April 5: Opening Day.  
July 13: 84th Major League All-Star Game, Baltimore.  
Oct 5: Major League championship series begins.  
Oct 16: World Series begins.

## BASKETBALL

Jan 9: National cups, quarter-finals.  
Jan 17: NatWest Trophy final, NIA, Birmingham.  
Feb 28: National cups, finals, men and women, Sheffield Arena.  
Mar 10: Kora Cup, final, first leg; Ronchetti Cup, final, first leg.  
Mar 17: Kora Cup, final, second leg; Ronchetti Cup, final, second leg.  
Mar 24: Blue Circle all-star game, Granby Halls, Leicester: Women's European Cup, semi-finals.  
Mar 25: Women's European Cup, final.  
Apr 6: European Cup, final.  
Apr 10: Carlsberg national league, play-offs, first round.  
Apr 13: European men's clubs championships, semi-finals.  
Apr 15: European championship, final, Athens.  
Apr 17: Carlsberg national league, play-offs, second round.  
Apr 24-25: Men's national league, fourth division play-offs, Melton Mowbray.  
May 1-2: Carlsberg championships, Wembley Arena.  
May 1-2: European women's championship, qualifying round.  
May 1-2: England men's international tournament, London.  
June 22-24: 4 Men's European championship, final, the Germany, Kuala Lumpur.  
Nov 18: European championships, semi-final round.

## BOBSLEIGHING

Jan 12-23: European championships, St. Moritz.  
Feb 9-21: World championships, Cervinia.

## BOWLS

Indoor  
Feb 15-28: World championship, singles and pairs, Preston.  
Mar 6-7: National inter-club championship, semi-finals and final, Lawson Park, Bedford.  
Mar 15-19: British Isles championships and international series, Swanssea.  
Mar 25-Apr 2: EWBA championships, Stevenage.  
Apr 3: Yellon Trophy women's inter-club championship, semi-finals and final, Stevenage.  
Mar 27-Apr 3: EIBA championships, Melton Mowbray.  
Apr 4: Liberty Trophy, Melton Mowbray.  
Outdoor  
June 25-27: Women's international series and British Isles championships, Apr.  
July 5-9: Men's international series and British Isles championships, Worthing.  
July 26-Aug 7: EWBA championships, Leamington.  
Aug 8-20: EBA championships, Worthing.  
Aug 17-22: Hastings men's open tournament.  
Aug 21: Middleton Cup, semi-finals and final, Worthing.  
Aug 28-29: Junior international series, Lumbury, Women's junior international series, Portsmouth.  
Sept 14-15: National mixed fours, Norwich.  
Sept 14-15: Ashbourne national mixed pairs.



Liz McColgan: defends her world championship crown

## BOXING

Amateur  
Jan 28: Scotland v England, Scotland.  
Feb 5: Ireland v England, Dublin.  
Apr 3: English championship, semi-finals, Blackbird Leys LC, Oxford.  
Apr 13: British championship, semi-finals, Gillingham LC.  
May 5: ABA finals, NEC, Birmingham.  
May 5-7: World championships, Tampere, Finland.  
Professional  
Jan 2: European light-welterweight championship, Valery Kuyumba (Fr) v Pat Barrett (GB), Luxembourg.  
Jan 8: WBA super-middleweight championship, Michael Nunn (US) v Victor Cordoba (Panama), Puerto Rico.  
Jan 13: European bantamweight championship, Vincenzo Belcastro (It) v Donnie Hood (GB), Milan.  
Jan 18: Heavyweight bouts, George Foreman (US) v Pierre Coetzee (SA), Tommy Morrison (US) v Carl Williams (US), Reno, Nevada.  
Jan 19: European flyweight championship, Robbie Hegan (GB) v Danny Potts (GB), National Indoor Centre.  
Jan 28: WBC international middleweight championship, Chris Pyatt (GB) v Danny Garcia (US), Granby Halls, Leicester.  
Jan 28: British super-heavyweight championship, Neil Hedcock v Steve Walker, Everton Park SC.  
Jan 30: WBC international heavyweight championship, Herbie Hide (GB) v Danny Stonewalker (US).

## BADMINTON

Mar 17-20: Yonex All-England open championships, Wembley Arena.  
Apr 25-28: Royal Bank ICC first and second division finals, third division play-offs.  
May 31-June 6: World championships, NIA, Birmingham.  
June 19: EBU circuit masters finals.

Commonwealth light-middleweight championship, Mickey Hughes (GB) v Lloyd Honeyghan (GB), Broomfield LC.  
Feb 3: WBC featherweight championship, Paul Hodkinson (GB) v Ricardo Cepeda (US), York Hall, London.  
Feb 8: WBA and IBF heavyweight championship, Riddick Bowe (US) v Michael Dokes (US).  
Feb 11: European cruiserweight championship, Akim Talar (Fr) v Derek Angol (GB), Nice.  
Feb 20: WBC light-welterweight championship, Julio Cesar Chavez (Mex) v Greg Haugen (US). WBC light-middleweight championship, Terry Norris (US) v Simon Brown (Jam). WBC middleweight championship, Julian Jackson (US) v Gerald McClellan (US). WBC super-featherweight championship, Azumah Nelson (Ghana) v Gabriel Ruelas (Mex). All in Mexico City.  
Feb 20: WBO super-middleweight championship, Chris Eubank (GB) v Lindell Holmes (US), Olympia.  
Mar 6: WBC welterweight championship, James McGirt (US) v Pamela Whitaker (US). Madison Square Garden, New York.  
Mar 6: WBC super-middleweight championship, Nigel Benn v opponent (Iba, Glasgow).

## CRICKET

Jan 2-6: Australia v West Indies, third Test, Sydney, New Zealand v Pakistan, Test match, Hamilton, South Africa v India, fourth Test, Cape Town.  
Jan 3-5: Delhi v England XI, Farnham.  
Jan 8-10: Indian Board President's XI v England XI, Lucknow.  
Jan 9: Pakistan v West Indies, World Series Cup, Brisbane.  
Jan 10: Australia v West Indies, World Series Cup, Australia.  
Jan 12: Australia v Pakistan, World Series Cup, Melbourne.  
Jan 13: Indian Board President's XI v England XI, Delhi.  
Jan 14: Australia v Pakistan, World Series Cup, Sydney.  
Jan 16: India v England, first one-day international, Sydney.  
Jan 18: India v England, second one-day international, Jaipur, World Series Cup, second final, Melbourne.  
Jan 20: World Series Cup, third final (if required), Melbourne.  
Jan 21: India v England, third one-day international, Chennai.  
Jan 23-25: Indian Under-25 XI v England XI, Cuttack.  
Jan 23-27: Australia v West Indies, fourth Test, Adelaide.  
Jan 28-Feb 2: India v England, first Test, Calcutta.  
Jan 30-Feb 3: Australia v West Indies, fifth Test, Perth.  
Jan 31: New South Wales XI v England A XI, Berrara.  
Feb 2-4: ACT v England A XI, Canberra.  
Feb 5-7: Rest of India XI v England XI, Visakhapatnam.  
Feb 7: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8-10: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 11: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Port Elizabeth.  
Feb 12: India v England, second Test, Madras.  
Feb 13: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Johannesburg.  
Feb 15-18: Australian Cricket Academy v England A XI, Melbourne.  
Feb 15: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, East London.  
Feb 17: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 18: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 19-22: Queensland v England A XI, Cairns.  
Feb 19-23: India v England, third Test, Bombay.  
Feb 21: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Verwardburg.  
Feb 22: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Bloemfontein.  
Feb 25: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 25-Mar 1: New Zealand v Australia, first Test, Christchurch.  
Feb 26-Mar 1: South Australia v England A XI, Adelaide.  
Feb 27: Triangular series, final, Johannesburg.  
Mar 1: India v England, fifth one-day international, Johannesburg.  
Mar 4: New South Wales v England A XI, Sydney.  
Mar 4-8: New Zealand v Australia, second Test, Wellington.  
Mar 5: India v England, sixth one-day international, Delhi.  
Mar 10: Sri Lanka v England, first one-day international, Colombo (day/night).  
Mar 10: Northern Territory XI v England A XI, Alice Springs.  
Mar 12: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 12: New Zealand v Australia, third Test, Auckland.  
Mar 13-18: Sri Lanka v England, Test match, Colombo.  
Mar 14-17: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 18: New Zealand v Australia, first one-day international, Dunedin.  
Mar 20: Sri Lanka v England, second one-day international, Moratuwa.  
Mar 21: New Zealand v Australia, second one-day international, Christchurch.  
Mar 23: West Indies v Pakistan, first one-day international, Kingston, Jamaica.  
Mar 24: New Zealand v Australia, third one-day international, Wellington.  
Mar 26: West Indies v Pakistan, second one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 26-30: Sheffield Shield, final.  
Mar 27: New Zealand v Australia, fourth one-day international, Hamilton, West Indies v Pakistan, third one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 30: West Indies v Pakistan, fourth one-day international, Arima, Guyana.  
Apr 3: West Indies v Pakistan, fifth one-day international, Georgetown, Guyana.  
Apr 10-20: West Indies v Pakistan, first Test, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Apr 23: West Indies v Pakistan, second Test, Bridgetown, Barbados.  
May 1-8: West Indies v Pakistan, third Test, St John's, Antigua.

## CYCLES

Jan 3: National cyclo-cross championships, Wolverhampton.  
Jan 30-31: World cyclo-cross championships, Portofino, Italy.  
Feb 1-3: 17th World Road Race Championships, Portofino, Italy.  
Feb 2-4: ACT v England A XI, Canberra.  
Feb 5-7: Rest of India XI v England XI, Visakhapatnam.  
Feb 7: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8-10: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 11: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Port Elizabeth.  
Feb 12: India v England, second Test, Madras.  
Feb 13: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Johannesburg.  
Feb 15-18: Australian Cricket Academy v England A XI, Melbourne.  
Feb 15: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, East London.  
Feb 17: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 18: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 19-22: Queensland v England A XI, Cairns.  
Feb 19-23: India v England, third Test, Bombay.  
Feb 21: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Verwardburg.  
Feb 22: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Bloemfontein.  
Feb 25: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 25-Mar 1: New Zealand v Australia, first Test, Christchurch.  
Feb 26-Mar 1: South Australia v England A XI, Adelaide.  
Feb 27: Triangular series, final, Johannesburg.  
Mar 1: India v England, fifth one-day international, Johannesburg.  
Mar 4: New South Wales v England A XI, Sydney.  
Mar 4-8: New Zealand v Australia, second Test, Wellington.  
Mar 5: India v England, sixth one-day international, Delhi.  
Mar 10: Sri Lanka v England, first one-day international, Colombo (day/night).  
Mar 10: Northern Territory XI v England A XI, Alice Springs.  
Mar 12: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 12: New Zealand v Australia, third Test, Auckland.  
Mar 13-18: Sri Lanka v England, Test match, Colombo.  
Mar 14-17: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 18: New Zealand v Australia, first one-day international, Dunedin.  
Mar 20: Sri Lanka v England, second one-day international, Moratuwa.  
Mar 21: New Zealand v Australia, second one-day international, Christchurch.  
Mar 23: West Indies v Pakistan, first one-day international, Kingston, Jamaica.  
Mar 24: New Zealand v Australia, third one-day international, Wellington.  
Mar 26: West Indies v Pakistan, second one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 26-30: Sheffield Shield, final.  
Mar 27: New Zealand v Australia, fourth one-day international, Hamilton, West Indies v Pakistan, third one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 30: West Indies v Pakistan, fourth one-day international, Arima, Guyana.  
Apr 3: West Indies v Pakistan, fifth one-day international, Georgetown, Guyana.  
Apr 10-20: West Indies v Pakistan, first Test, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Apr 23: West Indies v Pakistan, second Test, Bridgetown, Barbados.  
May 1-8: West Indies v Pakistan, third Test, St John's, Antigua.

## EQUESTRIANISM

May 1-3: Hermes Goodwood international championships.  
May 6-8: Badminton horse trials.  
May 13-16: Windsor horse driving trials.  
May 20-23: Nations' Cup, Hickstead.  
May 27-30: British Equestrian horse trials.  
June 10-13: Toyota Bramham three-day event.  
July 8-11: Royal International horse show.  
Aug 14-15: Gatcombe Park horse trials.  
Aug 28-29: Hickstead Derby.  
Sept 2-5: Burghley Horse Trials horse trials.  
Sept 4: Southwell European endurance championships.  
Sept 18-19: Blenheim Audi three-day event.  
Oct 6-10: Horse of the Year Show, Wembley (provisional).  
Dec 16-20: Olympia international show jumping championships.

## FENCING

Jan 9-10: British cadet championships.  
Jan 16-17: Scottish Open.  
Jan 23-24: British men's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
Jan 30-31: British men's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
Mar 27-28: British sabre championships, men and women.  
Apr 10-11: Birmingham International.  
Apr 24-25: Ipswich Cup women's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
May 1: Cordle Cup international men's sabre.  
May 8-9: British foil championships, men and women.  
May 12: British men's epee open championships.  
July 1-11: World championships, Essen.  
Nov 13-14: Welsh Open.

## FOOTBALL

Jan 2: FA Cup, third round.  
Jan 5-6: Coca-Cola Cup, fifth round.  
Jan 9: Tynes Scottish Cup, third round.

May 2: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XV v Australians, Arundel.  
May 9: AFA Equity & Law League starts.  
May 11: Benson and Hedges Cup, first round.  
May 19: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 21: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 23: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 25: Benson and Hedges Cup, quarter-finals.  
June 3-7: England v Australia, first Cornhill Test, Old Trafford.  
June 8: Benson and Hedges Cup, semi-finals.  
June 17-21: England v Australia, second Cornhill Test, Old Trafford.  
June 22: NatWest Trophy, first round.  
June 29: Elton v Harrow, Lord's.  
June 30-July 2: Oxford v Cambridge, Lord's.  
July 1-5: England v Australia, third Cornhill Test, Trent Bridge.  
July 7: NatWest Trophy, second round.  
July 10: Benson and Hedges Cup, final, Lord's.  
July 22-25: England v Australia, fourth Cornhill Test, Headingley.  
July 27: NatWest Trophy, quarter-finals.  
Aug 1: Women's World Cup final, Lord's.  
Aug 5-9: England v Australia, fifth Cornhill Test, Edgbaston.  
Aug 10: NatWest Trophy, semi-finals.  
Aug 22-23: England v Australia, sixth Cornhill Test, The Oval.  
Aug 25: Minor Counties knockout final, Lord's.  
Aug 27: NCA club championship final, Lord's.  
Aug 29: Rothmans village championship, final, Lord's.  
Sep 4: NatWest Trophy final, Lord's.  
Sep 16-20: Britannic Assurance championship, final round of matches.  
Sep 18: AFA Equity & Law League, final round of matches.

## GOLF

May 2: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XV v Australians, Arundel.  
May 9: AFA Equity & Law League starts.  
May 11: Benson and Hedges Cup, first round.  
May 19: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 21: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 23: England v Australia, Texaco Trophy, Old Trafford.  
May 25: Benson and Hedges Cup, quarter-finals.  
June 3-7: England v Australia, first Cornhill Test, Old Trafford.  
June 8: Benson and Hedges Cup, semi-finals.  
June 17-21: England v Australia, second Cornhill Test, Old Trafford.  
June 22: NatWest Trophy, first round.  
June 29: Elton v Harrow, Lord's.  
June 30-July 2: Oxford v Cambridge, Lord's.  
July 1-5: England v Australia, third Cornhill Test, Trent Bridge.  
July 7: NatWest Trophy, second round.  
July 10: Benson and Hedges Cup, final, Lord's.  
July 22-25: England v Australia, fourth Cornhill Test, Headingley.  
July 27: NatWest Trophy, quarter-finals.  
Aug 1: Women's World Cup final, Lord's.  
Aug 5-9: England v Australia, fifth Cornhill Test, Edgbaston.  
Aug 10: NatWest Trophy, semi-finals.  
Aug 22-23: England v Australia, sixth Cornhill Test, The Oval.  
Aug 25: Minor Counties knockout final, Lord's.  
Aug 27: NCA club championship final, Lord's.  
Aug 29: Rothmans village championship, final, Lord's.  
Sep 4: NatWest Trophy final, Lord's.  
Sep 16-20: Britannic Assurance championship, final round of matches.  
Sep 18: AFA Equity & Law League, final round of matches.

## HOCKEY

May 29-June 1: Inter-county championships, Southwick and Brighton.  
June 5-6: Home internationals, Budleigh Salterton.  
June 15-20: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham.  
July 18-25: British Open championship, Hurlingham and Fulham.  
Sept 16-19: President's Cup, Hurlingham and Fulham.

## CYCLING

Jan 3: National cyclo-cross championships, Wolverhampton.  
Jan 30-31: World cyclo-cross championships, Portofino, Italy.  
Feb 1-3: 17th World Road Race Championships, Portofino, Italy.  
Feb 2-4: ACT v England A XI, Canberra.  
Feb 5-7: Rest of India XI v England XI, Visakhapatnam.  
Feb 7: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8-10: Tasmania v England A XI, Launceston.  
Feb 8: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 11: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Port Elizabeth.  
Feb 12: India v England, second Test, Madras.  
Feb 13: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Johannesburg.  
Feb 15-18: Australian Cricket Academy v England A XI, Melbourne.  
Feb 15: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, East London.  
Feb 17: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 18: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Durban.  
Feb 19-22: Queensland v England A XI, Cairns.  
Feb 19-23: India v England, third Test, Bombay.  
Feb 21: South Africa v Pakistan, triangular series, Verwardburg.  
Feb 22: South Africa v West Indies, triangular series, Bloemfontein.  
Feb 25: Pakistan v West Indies, triangular series, Cape Town.  
Feb 25-Mar 1: New Zealand v Australia, first Test, Christchurch.  
Feb 26-Mar 1: South Australia v England A XI, Adelaide.  
Feb 27: Triangular series, final, Johannesburg.  
Mar 1: India v England, fifth one-day international, Johannesburg.  
Mar 4: New South Wales v England A XI, Sydney.  
Mar 4-8: New Zealand v Australia, second Test, Wellington.  
Mar 5: India v England, sixth one-day international, Delhi.  
Mar 10: Sri Lanka v England, first one-day international, Colombo (day/night).  
Mar 10: Northern Territory XI v England A XI, Alice Springs.  
Mar 12: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 12: New Zealand v Australia, third Test, Auckland.  
Mar 13-18: Sri Lanka v England, Test match, Colombo.  
Mar 14-17: Western Australia XI v England A XI, Perth.  
Mar 18: New Zealand v Australia, first one-day international, Dunedin.  
Mar 20: Sri Lanka v England, second one-day international, Moratuwa.  
Mar 21: New Zealand v Australia, second one-day international, Christchurch.  
Mar 23: West Indies v Pakistan, first one-day international, Kingston, Jamaica.  
Mar 24: New Zealand v Australia, third one-day international, Wellington.  
Mar 26: West Indies v Pakistan, second one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 26-30: Sheffield Shield, final.  
Mar 27: New Zealand v Australia, fourth one-day international, Hamilton, West Indies v Pakistan, third one-day international, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Mar 30: West Indies v Pakistan, fourth one-day international, Arima, Guyana.  
Apr 3: West Indies v Pakistan, fifth one-day international, Georgetown, Guyana.  
Apr 10-20: West Indies v Pakistan, first Test, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.  
Apr 23: West Indies v Pakistan, second Test, Bridgetown, Barbados.  
May 1-8: West Indies v Pakistan, third Test, St John's, Antigua.

## DISABLED SPORT

June 5-12: National senior wheelchair games, Stoke Mandeville.  
June 13-16: World Stoke Mandeville Games, Milan.  
July 5-11: French Open tennis championships, Paris.  
Aug 1-3: 17th World Games for the Disabled, Sofia, Bulgaria.  
July 27-31: British Open tennis championships, Nottingham.  
Aug 20-22: ITD world sailing championships, Stoke Mandeville.  
Aug 24-26: European athletics championships, Stoke Mandeville.  
Oct 8-17: US Open tennis championships, Irvine, California.

## EQUESTRIANISM

May 1-3: Hermes Goodwood international championships.  
May 6-8: Badminton horse trials.  
May 13-16: Windsor horse driving trials.  
May 20-23: Nations' Cup, Hickstead.  
May 27-30: British Equestrian horse trials.  
June 10-13: Toyota Bramham three-day event.  
July 8-11: Royal International horse show.  
Aug 14-15: Gatcombe Park horse trials.  
Aug 28-29: Hickstead Derby.  
Sept 2-5: Burghley Horse Trials horse trials.  
Sept 4: Southwell European endurance championships.  
Sept 18-19: Blenheim Audi three-day event.  
Oct 6-10: Horse of the Year Show, Wembley (provisional).  
Dec 16-20: Olympia international show jumping championships.

## FENCING

Jan 9-10: British cadet championships.  
Jan 16-17: Scottish Open.  
Jan 23-24: British men's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
Jan 30-31: British men's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
Mar 27-28: British sabre championships, men and women.  
Apr 10-11: Birmingham International.  
Apr 24-25: Ipswich Cup women's epee A-grade international, World Cup series.  
May 1: Cordle Cup international men's sabre.  
May 8-9: British foil championships, men and women.  
May 12: British men's epee open championships.  
July 1-11: World championships, Essen.  
Nov 13-14: Welsh Open.

## FOOTBALL

Jan 2: FA Cup, third round.  
Jan 5-6: Coca-Cola Cup, fifth round.  
Jan 9: Tynes Scottish Cup, third round.

## Europe ready to regain the Cup

BY MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo hopes to turn his impossible dream into reality by winning the four major championships in one year, but he knows that the highlight of the sporting calendar will be the Ryder Cup at The Belfry on September 24 to 26.

"I have my own personal goals, although the importance of the Ryder Cup cannot be understated," Faldo said. "It is a wonderful match and I'll be looking forward to trying to help Europe win the Cup back."

Faldo made his debut in the Ryder Cup in 1977 in the days when it was a foregone conclusion that the United States would win. Jack Nicklaus felt then that the future of the match was in doubt and he called for continental players to be included.

The renaissance of the competition has subsequently been well documented. Tony Jacklin was made captain in 1983 and, at The Belfry two years later, he led Europe, inspired by Severiano Ballesteros and Faldo, to a famous victory over the Americans for the first time since 1957.

Europe retained the Cup, sponsored again this year by Johnnie Walker, in 1987, winning on American soil for the first time, and again in 1989, when the match finished in a tie at The Belfry. The United States regained Samuel Ricks' elegant golden chalice at Kiawah Island in 1991.

Bernard Gallacher, Jacklin's successor as Europe's captain, is looking forward with confidence to The Belfry. He accepts it will be an evenly-balanced match and his hope is that it will unfold in the most convivial of atmospheres.

"I must admit I've got butterflies already and the match is still more than eight months away," he said. "It seems only like



Leading from the front: Faldo will lead the attempt to regain the Ryder Cup at The Belfry in September

yesterday that we went down to the last putt at Kiawah Island. I know all the players are determined as I am to win the Cup back and we are looking forward to strong, fair support at The Belfry."

Tom Watson, five times the Open champion, is the United States captain. He said: "Intensify has made the Ryder Cup a top-level event, a major if you like. I hope the United States plays its best at The Belfry and, even if we don't, then the chances are we will take the Cup back with us."

Faldo, however, remembers that he beat Watson in the singles in 1977 when both played in the match for the first time. Faldo has a hectic schedule for 1993 with Augusta (The Masters), Baltusrol (US Open), Royal St George's (Open Championship) and Inverness (US PGA Championship) his main ports of call, but by September he will have his thoughts

trailed, like so many, exclusively on The Belfry.

Those spectators fortunate enough to be there—only 27,500 tickets are available—will find viewing much improved. Dave Thomas, the former Ryder Cup player, has significantly tightened the course and overseen the building of huge stands to facilitate viewing.

Ryder Cup tickets will be issued subject to availability and applications should be made to The Ryder Cup Box Office, RC93 Tickets, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 9PT (Tel: 0675 475475). The cost of a season ticket is £100.00 for an adult and £50 for senior citizens and children under 16. Daily tickets are £35 for adult and £21 for senior citizens and children under 16. Details of Ryder Cup patronage packages can be obtained from the same address (Quote RC93 Patrons, Tel: 0675 47500).

play-off final, Wembley.  
June 1: UEFA under-21 championship, Norway v England (group two).  
June 2: World Cup, Scotland v Estonia (group one), Norway v England (group two), Latvia v Northern Ireland (group three).  
June 6: World Cup, Faeroe Islands v Wales (group four), England open tour of United States.  
June 8: World Cup, Latvia v Republic of Ireland (group three).  
June 16: World Cup, Lithuania v Republic of Ireland (group three).  
Aug 7: FA Charity Shield, Wembley.  
Oct 13: World Cup, Holland v England (group two).  
Nov 16: World Cup, San Marino v England (group two).  
Nov 17: World Cup, Malta v Scotland (group one), Northern Ireland v Republic of Ireland (group three), Wales v Romania (group four).  
Dec 17 or 18: Draw for Fifa World Cup finals, Las Vegas.

## GOLF

Men  
Jan 4-5: Alfred Dunhill Cup, European qualifying, Massena, France.  
Jan 6-10: President's Putt, Rye GC, Sussex.  
Jan 7-10: US Tournament of Champions, Carlsbad, California.  
Jan 14-17: Madeira Island Open, Santa Cruz, Funchal.  
Jan 28-31: The Heineken Classic (Australian Tour), The Vines, Western Australia; Dubai Desert Classic, Dubai, UAE.  
Feb 4-7: Johnnie Walker Classic, Singapore.  
Feb 11-14: South African Open, Cape Town, New Zealand Open, Paraparaumu Beach, Turepana Tennis Open, Goli del Sur.  
Feb 18-21: Australian Masters, Huntingdale, Victoria; Moroccan Open, Royal Dar-es-Salam, Rabat.  
Feb 25-28: South African Masters, Iba, Turepana Masters, Iba.  
Mar 4-7: Mediterranean Open, El Saler, Valencia.  
Mar 11-14: Turepana Balcanic Open, Santa Ponsa, Mallorca.  
Mar 12: Rothmans Gold Cup, Sunningdale.  
Mar 16-19: Portuguese Open, Vila Sol, Algarve.  
Mar 25-28: US Players' championship, Ponte Vedra, Florida; Pro-Senior Tour Italy, Carvia, Bologna.  
Apr 1-4: Lyons Open, Villet d'Anthon.  
Apr 2-4: Central England Open men's tournament, Woodhall Spa.  
Apr 8-11: The Masters, Augusta, Georgia.  
Apr 16-18: Home Masters, Castelfidardo.  
Apr 22-25: Catalan Open, Barcelona.  
Apr 24-25: West of England stroke play, Saunton.  
Apr 29-May 2: Credit Lyonnais Games Open, Cannes Mougins; Alfred Dunhill Cup, qualifying, Taper.

May 1-2: Berkshire Trophy, The Berkshire, Lytham, Royal Lytham and St. Annes.  
May 6-9: Benson and Hedges International Open, St. Mellon.  
May 13-16: Peugeot Spanish Open, RAC, Madrid; Volvo PGA championship, Sports Pavilion CC.  
May 14-16: Balacon Trophy, Stoneham.  
May 20-23: Lancia Martin Italian Open, Modena, Bologna.  
May 25-28: Amateur championship, Royal Qualifying, Royal Canoe Ports, France; Lilleshall and North Foreland.  
May 28-31: Volvo PGA championship, Wentworth.  
June 3-6: Dunhill British Masters, Woburn, Hampshire; tournament (US Tour), Marlfield Village, Ohio.  
June 10-13: Carrolls Irish Open, Mount Juliet, Co. Kilkenny; Buck Classic (US Tour), Westchester, New York.  
June 17-20: US Open, Pinehurst, Springfield, New Jersey.  
June 24-27: Peugeot French Open, Le National, Paris.  
June 30-July 3: Monte Carlo Open, Monte Carlo.  
July 30-Aug 2: European men's team championship, Maranske Lasne, Czechoslovakia.  
July 7-10: Belfry Scottish Open, Glenageary.  
July 8-11: US Senior Open, Cherry Hills, Englewood, Colorado.  
July 11-12: Open Championship final qualifying, Royal Canoe Ports, France; Lilleshall and North Foreland.  
July 15-18: Open Championship Royal St George's.  
July 20-22: Carns Trophy (Boys), Moor Park.  
July 22-25: Heineken Dutch Open, Noordwijk, Leiden.  
July 26-31: English Amateur Championship, Scottish Amateur Championship, Royal Donagh.  
July 28-Aug 1: Scandinavian Masters, Forsgardens, Gothenburg.  
Aug 8-11: BMW International Open, Munich.  
Aug 12-15: US PGA Championship, Inverness, Toledo, Ohio; Austrian Open, Gut Aichtern, Salzburg.  
Aug 18-19: Walker Cup, Edina, Minnesota.  
Aug 19-22: Murphy v English Open, Forest of Arden.  
Aug 24-26: US Amateur Championship, Champions, Houston, Texas.  
Aug 26-29: Volvo German Open, Humberburg, Düsseldorf; World Series of Golf (US Tour), Firestone, Akron, Ohio.  
Aug 26-29: International European Amateur Championship, Dalmatney.  
Sept 2-5: Canon European Masters, Crans sur Sierre, Switzerland.  
Sept 3-4: English champion club tournament, Northampton.  
Sept 8-10: Home international Royal Liverpool Women's amateur home international, Humberburg.  
Sept 8-12: GA European Open, East Sussex; Alcorn, Canadian Open (US Tour), Glen Abbey, Ontario.  
Sept 16-19: Larn, Monte Trophy, Saint-Nicolas, Brittany, France.

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All Blacks' first tour for decade to serve as yardstick for double grand slam-winners

## England view five nations' as launchpad of campaign

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND's leading players will drink a toast to the new year in Lanzarote this evening — a year as demanding as any would wish for, since it incorporates the first tour in ten years by New Zealand. Of one thing the 30-strong training party can be sure: there will be no shortage of work, nor of demands upon their time, in 1993.

The management team which accompanies the squad which flies to the Canaries early this morning (returning home on Tuesday) has two aims in mind: the five nations' championship, which begins against France on January 16, and sustaining form into next season so that the All Blacks meet the strongest possible opposition.

Geoff Cooke, the manager, has already indicated that New Zealand is the focal point for 1993. He knows, of course, that the best way to build confidence for that fixture in November is by winning the games before it, in the championship and on tour in North America in May.

These are the initial aims for the players, who will spend the next five days undergoing fitness tests and contributing to the strategy and tactics they hope will see them to a third successive grand slam (England's team to play the French at Twickenham will be announced on Sunday).

Since there is such a busy programme of A internationals, as well as the close-season tour, all 30 players may hope for representative honours of some kind over the next six months. But even allowing for the need to limit numbers, there are some curious omissions. The two positions most lacking depth in English rugby are full back and scrum half yet, if we are to take the management at its word, only one full back goes and two

scrum halves, while there are three stand-off halves.

You may argue that the cover for Jonathan Webb at full back is Ian Hunter, of Northampton, but that is not the selectors' perception. Cooke, asked if Hunter would play at No. 15 in the event of an injury to Webb, advised against making such an assumption and it has been stressed that in the top flight, Hunter is seen as a wing.

So who will play full back against France? The selectors in the A international at Leicester on January 15? Alan Buzza, John Lilley or Steve Pilgrim? The Lanzarote squad does not tell us, and the opportunity has been missed to take another scrum half of the younger generation.

Dewi Morris and Steve Bates continue their battle while Richard Hill, at home, ponders whether he has an international future. Aadel Kardooni and Dave Scully did not obviously look the part with the B side in New Zealand last summer, so, if England were in the business of gambling, they might have taken Matthew Dawson, of Northampton.

The decision to take Steve Ojomoh as an open-side flanker indicates that they are not averse to experimentation, so little would have been lost by taking Dawson for the experience. Dawson has only recently returned to scrum half, where he won schoolboy honours, because Northampton have required him at centre, but he showed in the divisional championship he may have a substantial future.

"We have great hopes for him," Cooke said. "He was in New Zealand playing club rugby when England B were there and he had hoped to come back and play scrum half at Northampton. He has a lot of work to do with the mechanics of scrum-half play, which he might have done in Lanzarote but which might be better done at club level."

□ The England Under-21 team will play seven matches on its first tour of Australia in July. The party will be managed by John Elliott, the senior England selector.

INTERNATIONALS (all opponents under-21) July 3 v Western Australia (Perth), 7 v New South Wales (Sydney), 10 v Australian Capital Territory (Canberra), 13 v Queensland (Brisbane), 17 v Queensland Country (various), 21 v New South Wales (Sydney), 24 v Australia (Sydney).



England's second row prefers to play with an injury that requires surgery rather than miss internationals

## Bayfield chooses to shoulder pain

MARTIN Bayfield, the England second row forward, is to attempt to play through the five nations' championship and, he hopes, the British Lions tour to New Zealand in June with a split capsule in his left shoulder.

The diagnosis, from an arthroscopic examination, has revealed that Bayfield needs an operation and has been advised to have one by surgeons. However, the Northampton player considers his present programme too important to permit him a lengthy layoff.

Medical experts have told

him he would miss three or four months of rugby if he underwent surgery. By playing on he runs the risk of suffering arthritis in the joint when he gets older.

Bayfield said yesterday he was prepared to take that chance. "That may or may not happen and being young and irresponsible I'll worry about that if and when it happens."

However, England who will soon embark upon their attempt at a unique third successive grand slam, will wish to make contingency plans should Bayfield suffer a serious breakdown during the international season.

The injury has prevented him playing since December 12. Representing the Midlands against the North, at

Waterloo, Bayfield suffered a blow on the shoulder which caused him intense pain and restricted his range of movement.

"An awkward movement can jar it as the bone catches on soft tissue," he explained. "I will play on for the moment. If I have the time to have the operation done, or it gives me great concern, I may revise my current thinking. Otherwise I will have to grin and bear it."

"When it jars I lose feeling in the arm for a few seconds. Then there is no strength in the arm for two or three minutes. It is painful for another ten to 15 minutes but after that it just feels sore. At least I know now what it is."

The injury has troubled the

6ft 10in lock for much of the season. Had he discovered the precise damage earlier, it is certain he would have had an operation in October or November to correct the injury.

As it is, he feels there is too much at stake in the coming months to contemplate a lengthy layoff. However, it is possible the injury may decide matters for him if it flares up, although medical opinion suggests it ought not to deteriorate greatly.

Should it worsen, he may be forced to have surgery and it is by no means certain that the British Lions selectors would choose a player for so physically demanding a tour as New Zealand, knowing he was carrying an injury.

## HOCKEY

## Successive victories keep South East on course for title

By Sydney Friskin

AFTER conceding an early goal, South East beat North West 3-1 and put themselves in a strong position to retain the under-18 title in the junior divisional tournament at Birmingham yesterday.

A snap goal by Todd Eden shook South East, who squandered three short corners in the first half. Simon Collins levelled the score midway through the second half, and further goals followed from Simon Archer and Jon Axworthy.

South East also had a scare earlier in the day, when they scrambled a 2-1 win over West, who had the better of the second half and were unlucky to lose. The lead which Neil Brennan gave South East in the first minute, from a penalty stroke, was answered almost immediately by Jon Evenett from a short corner.

West seized the initiative and kept a close watch on Archer, who eventually set up the chance for Axworthy to score the winning goal.

East kept their hopes alive with two successes during the day. Having beaten North West 1-0 in the morning with a goal by Amirur Rahman, they went on to defeat North East 3-0. Andrew Kennedy scored from a short corner and

a penalty stroke, and Chad Miah added to the score in the first half.

Guy Fordham, who plays for Hounslow in the national league, gave South West the lead from a penalty stroke early in the second half, but Matthew Allen forced a 1-1 draw by scoring soon after for Midlands.

South East made further progress at under-16 level with a 4-0 victory over West. Vitas Faux-Bowyer scored in the first minute from Daniel Poulsen's pass. In the first minute of the second half Alistair Boyce, going well on the right, centred for Matthew Osborne to score. Further goals followed by Poulsen and Boyce. East later put themselves in an even stronger position after a 3-0 win over South West.

Midlands hit three goals without reply against North East in a spell of ascendancy in the second half. Keith Resby and Michael Hartley scored from short corners and Sebastian Hamilton-Mudge from open play.

RESULTS: Under-18: North East 1, East 1, North West 0, South East 2, West 1, Midlands 1, South West 1, North East 3, South 0, South West 0, Under-16: Midlands 2, West 1, North West 0, North East 1, East 0, South West 0, West 1, South East 4, Midlands 3, North East 0, North West 1, East 1, South East 3, South West 0.

## SCHOOLS SPORT

## Youngsters aim for second grand slam

By Christopher Dighton

WHILE the seniors contemplate a third successive grand slam from their warm-weather training camp in Lanzarote, the England 18 Group rugby team is making plans for a second under its new coach, Mike Williams.

Williams, who is also in charge of rugby at Sevenoaks School in Kent, has taken charge of the older boys after years supervising the 16 Group. The shape of his squad will become more defined in the next few weeks, when the four divisions in England pick their representative sides, but Williams has been busy laying foundations for the first international, against Wales at Tenby in mid-February.

"At the start of the season we sent fitness booklets to every player who has represented his county with an exercise designed to build up from last November," he said. "I have also written to all the 16 Group players of the last two years and the 18 Group. In the last few years between six and eight of the 16 Group players have graduated to the higher level."

London announces its divisional squad on January 4, followed by the North on January 10 and the Midlands and the South West on January 13. The home international series will end when England play Ireland on April 10, but then Williams will start preparing again for a summer trip to New Zealand.

"That will be an important trip and I know from experience that we will be playing some very hard games," Williams said. "The main difference is the time we have to do things compared with the southern hemisphere, where defences are very much quicker and the tackling is bone-shaking."

"Schools rugby in England has not fully cottoned on to the fact that the new laws allow for a handful of strong players to hold the opposition back, freeing more players to be strung across the pitch in defensive positions."

The England 18 Group, which could have been setting off in pursuit of a third grand slam this season but for a defeat by Wales two years ago, certainly face an uncompromising schedule.

## THE TIMES TRANSATLANTIC PRIVILEGE PASS

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## THE TIMES SPORTING HERITAGE CALENDAR 1993

TOKEN 5

## Rum and fun on the Jamaican circuit

Tom Clarke joins the golfers who showed Faldo and the other superstars what they missed on the world championship course

SO NICK Faldo came home from Jamaica for Christmas with £340,000 and the Johnnie Walker world championship of golf. Big deal!

But how many times did the faithful Fanny Sunesson gaze up from lugging her master's bag to greet another fairway-splitting drive with an eye-rolling hallelujah of "Musical swing, man!"? How many times did she watch a nine-iron soar and fall and nestle a couple of feet from the pin and then cry: "Solid gold, Nick! That's on the dancin' floor!"? And how many times did she celebrate a hole in one by somersaulting along the fairway? Never, never, and never.

That's the trouble with the big time: the money is too serious; the caddies are the occasional high-five apart, too solemn.

Faldo and Sunesson missed the fun circuit in Jamaica.

They should have been with us a few weeks earlier: they would have met Leroy, Thomas, George, Oscar and the rest who believe that to caddy is to participate, to sing over success and to sneer over failure.

Like Faldo, we played the

monster course of Tryall — and it was more of a beast for us. They were toughening the course, letting the rough grow thigh-high to within five yards of the fairway, ready for the superstars (only for it to be cut back when they arrived and reckoned it was too troublesome for their £1.8 million party). So we can be proud of own champion, Joe Wood, and his 32 Stableford points: the 80-plus of Ballesteros and Forsbrand would have been ten points or more worse (barely better than my own embarrassing scores, which remain a private matter between me and the marker).

Tryall, with its growing reputation as the permanent home of the world championship and its televisual qualities (the real course is rearranged so television can cover the last seven holes of the Johnnie Walker event), is the standard-bearer of Jamaica's attempt to

promote its north coast, where the Blue Mountains reach down to the Caribbean, as an international golf destination.

For all but the very best players, Tryall is too heart-breaking and ball-losing for more than two or three visits. Our home course was Half Moon, to the east of Montego Bay, and some 15 miles from Tryall. Half Moon is a Robert Trent Jones design, long, heavily-bunkered and with large greens, all in fine order. It offered easy walking and better scoring but still nobody in our group of 19 golfers did better than 35 points.

We also played Runaway Bay, near Ocho Rios, and Wyndham Rose Hall, a couple of miles from Half Moon — both were fine tests, even though the latter was still recovering from the traffic of a professional tournament — and Sandals, the former Upton course near Ocho Rios, which is being refurbished.

The golf alone — and the joy of having somebody actually cheer one of your shots — is a good enough reason for visiting Jamaica. But there are other ways of burning off one round of rum punches and Red Stripes and building up a thirst for the next deep-sea fishing (we caught a 90lb snapper during our two half-day trips), drinking through the foam of Dunn's River Falls at the end of the day after the cruise-ship hundreds have left, gliding down the Martha

Bras River on a bamboo raft while the guide scratches a pattern on a gourd and offers to sell it to you for "whatever you can afford, man", snorkelling in the buoyant and blue waters along the coral reef, tennis by floodlight.

Jamaica is perhaps best visited, as we did, with a party of friends (alone on the streets of Montego Bay at night would be as unwise as it would be in New York or Naples) and to stay in a villa. Most of the food we ate in restaurants or roadside bars was more than pleasant; but the best meals — and the best fun —

were either at our home base, prepared by the staff of our villas, or at one of the imaginative "Meet the people" evenings run by the Jamaica Tourist Board.

□ We travelled by British Airways: onward direct from Gatwick to Montego Bay; homeward via a rather tedious stop-over at Kingston. We stayed in two huge villas (owned by Richard Russell Villars, PO Box 80, Montego Bay, Jamaica) with access to all the facilities at the Half Moon Hotel. Kuoni Travel offers golf packages in Jamaica.

## WORD WATCHING

**REHOBOMAM** (n) and (b), cognates for Rehoboth, son of Solomon. King of Judah, I Kings xiv. 2. Charlotte Bennett: "A personage of short stature bearing on broad shoulders a hawk's head, the whole surmounted by a Rehobomam." "A rehobomam of claret or rum is a double jacobson."

**OPTIMIFIC** (v) Producing the maximum good consequences, from the Latin optimus best + fic making. "The first half of Universalistic Ethical Hedonism, to wit the theory that being optimistic is the one and only right-making characteristic."

**INDENTER** (n) Something that produces indentations, spec. a small hard, sphere, pyramid, or similar object used for producing an indentation in a solid (as in an indentation test). "All three are indentation tests in which a weighted steel ball or other indenter is applied to the test piece. The hardness is assessed according to the size of the impression."

**MESETA** (n) A plateau, spec. the high plateau of central Spain, diminutive of the Spanish mesa, from Latin mensa a table. "The regions of the high meseta — the Castiles, Aragon, Leon, and Extremadura."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
The black queen is rounded up with 1. Bd2.



Champion hurdler collapses shortly after finishing fourth on seasonal reappearance

# Royal Gait dies of heart attack after race

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

ROYAL Gait, the champion hurdler, died of a heart attack seconds after finishing fourth in the Bookmakers Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday.

"He was only cruising as we rounded the final turn but coming to the last hurdle he began to falter and I feared that he had broken down," Graham McCourt, his jockey, said. "Then he began to wobble under me and I knew the worst."

James Fanshawe, Royal Gait's trainer, said: "I am absolutely devastated. He gave me the best day I've had in racing at Cheltenham in March. After all the setbacks he has surmounted, what a shame that this should happen."

Controversy and Royal Gait have never been far apart, notably when he was disqualified after finishing first in the 1988 Ascot Gold Cup.

The much-travelled stayer had entered the record books the previous year by becoming the first horse from Spain, where he had seven different trainers, to win the group one Prix du Cadran at Longchamp.

He subsequently joined John Fawcett at Chantilly and won the Ascot Gold Cup in a canter only to have the race taken away from him when jockey Cash Asmusen was found guilty of careless riding. The decision was confirmed at an appeal enquiry.

Royal Gait was later bought by Shaikh Mohammed but leg trouble forced him into retirement and it was a fine feat on the part of the shaikh's staff at Kildangan Stud to nurse him back to soundness, an achievement crowned by his Champion Hurdle triumph.

In defeating Oh So Risky by half a length to claim hurdling's most coveted prize at Cheltenham in March, Royal Gait became the first novice to win the Champion Hurdle since Doorknocker in 1956.

The death of Royal Gait overshadowed the outcome of the Bookmakers Hurdle in which Charlie Swan displayed the talent which enabled him

to break all Irish jumping records this year in getting Novello Allegro home by a head from Muir Station.

There was a four-length gap back to Richard Dunwoody's mount, Crowded House, who in turn was two lengths in front of Royal Gait.

Muir Station ran a good trial for the Ladbroke on Saturday week but Jim Bolger, his trainer, said that the four-year-old would miss the Leopardstown race.

Novello Allegro and Crowded House will also bypass The Ladbroke and will meet again at Leopardstown in the AIG Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on January 31.

Noel Meade, the winning trainer, said: "He only does what he has to on the run-in and that's why it developed into a bit of a scramble. I think he has earned the right to a crack at the Irish Champion before we make any further plans."

Meade added: "He was hobbled after his disappointing run at Liverpool in April and that seems to have made a big difference."

Barry Kelly, trainer of Crowded House, hopes to run him in both the Irish and English Champion Hurdles.

Bookmakers reshuffled their Cheltenham odds following the death of Royal Gait, both William Hill and Coral shortening the favourite, Mighty Mogul, from 3-1 to 5-2.

Hills bet: 5-2 Mighty Mogul, 4-1 Halkopous, 8-1 Vintage Crop, 10-1 Morley Street, Destriero, Staunch Friend, 12-1 Granville Again, 16-1 bar, Novello Allegro is 33-1.

Coral offer: 5-2 Mighty Mogul, 4-1 Halkopous, 10-1 Destriero, Granville Again, Vintage Crop, 12-1 Morley Street, Staunch Friend, 16-1 bar.

Leopardstown details

GOING: yielding  
1.40 BOOKMAKERS HURDLE (listed race) 11.45: 2m. 1. NOVELLO ALLEGRO (C. Swan, 5-1); 2. MUIR STATION (C. O'Brien, 7-1); 3. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 8-1); 4. ALLEGRO (C. O'Brien, 10-1); 5. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 6. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 7. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 8. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 9. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 10. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 11. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 12. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 13. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 14. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 15. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 16. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 17. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 18. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 19. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 20. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 21. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 22. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 23. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 24. CROWDED HOUSE (R. Dunwoody, 10-1); 25. CROWDED HOUSE (R. 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# Fletcher plays down India's defeat in South Africa



Gavaskar: harsh critic

After a day on the front pages for Graham Gooch and for accommodation for his team, the serious business of the England tour began in Delhi yesterday with the squad having two sessions in the nets at the impressive air force ground at Palam.

There were, inevitably, mixed performances, some players showing signs of jetlag. Among them was Gooch, whose day began badly when he went into the spinners' net and was promptly bowled by one of the locals, Panhaji Maitrey, 23, a left-arm bowler who plays for the Combed Services.

"Graham seemed as if his mind was still on the plane," the team manager, Keith Fletcher, said afterwards. "He's struggling a bit, his feet

were not moving too well. But the players were very sluggish, they hadn't slept well and it looked like it the way we played."

Things improved after lunch, Gooch returning to the nets for two further knocks with happier results. For him to have trouble with spinners, whom he usually dismisses with a certainty bordering on contempt, is rare enough for it to be remarked upon.

The facilities as a whole so impressed Fletcher that he rated them as being worth 80 per cent of actual play in the middle. Nets do not get much better than that, and Devon Malcolm, who is not usually the best bowler at practice, was encouraged to slip himself, hitting the stumps more than once. Jarvis also looked sharp and apart from the effects of

Peter Ball, who is in Delhi with the England team, believes Azharuddin will be replaced as India's captain for the forthcoming series

jetlag, the players seem in good order.

Robin Smith, the one injury problem, contented himself with running and exercising in the morning. In the afternoon he batted in the spinners' net with a protective covering over his toe, which was injured in the last session at Lillehall before Christmas.

He will not play in the first match, against Delhi, the Ranji Trophy champions, which begins at Faridabad on Sunday. "If he got hit on the toe, it could set him back two weeks. If there was a crisis, our Test match next week he could

play, but there is no point in rushing him," Fletcher said.

The debate about the use of a third umpire continues and Fletcher repeated his approval. "We wouldn't have any objections if India want to introduce it," he said, although suggestions from Indian journalists that the quality of their television pictures might make it a dubious asset were acknowledged with a smile.

Although Fletcher and Gooch are in favour, there has still been no indication that the Indian board will propose it. Fletcher also conceded that

delays while a film was re-run half-a-dozen times would worry him. He knows how slow over-rates in this country can be.

Not even the presence of a third umpire satisfied Azharuddin, the Indian captain, blaming some poor umpiring decisions as well as bad batting for his side's latest result in South Africa. The search has begun for scapegoats and Azharuddin seems unlikely to survive as captain.

Cricket still has a strong hold on India. Yesterday we counted four sets of boys or youths playing impromptu games on waste ground inside a mile and that sort of enthusiasm makes the present disarray even harder to bear. Searching is widespread.

Yesterday, Sunil Gavaskar became the latest to add his

voice to the "condemnation, calling for a 'fresh team' to be selected for the series against England in his column in *The Times of India*. Gavaskar conceded that Azharuddin had got a debatable decision in the third Test and excused Shastri for a ball which took off from a length. But otherwise he was scathing. He described the batting as "a pathetic show" and condemned a lack of fight and application. "One felt sorry for them, as most of them were contributing to their omission from the side to play England in the new year."

His sympathy, however, was limited. "This Indian team looks mentally jaded and tired, as is evident from the way they are batting," he wrote. "If that is the case it would be better to rest them (if you do not want to call it

dropping them) and hope that the rest from the pressures and tensions of international cricket will make them eager to come back and perform as one expects."

Whether replacements would prove more durable may be questioned. But India will take some heart from the success of the spinners, Raju and Kumble. That may give Fletcher, who was dismissive of Kumble after seeing him earlier in the series, something to think about. The England manager yesterday insisted that he will not read too much into the happenings in South Africa. "The Indian team may be a different proposition at home," he told some sceptical Indian journalists.

Whether the Indian selectors are as cautious remains to be seen.

## West Indies collapse to Warne's leg spin

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHANE Warne, who had been brought into Australia's team in place of Dean Jones, spun them to a 139-run victory over West Indies in the second Test at Melbourne yesterday.

The slight, blond-haired leg spinner took seven wickets for 52 runs, totally bemusing the batsmen with his flight and turn after breaking a second-wicket partnership of 134 between Simmons and Richardson, the captain, which had given West Indies a platform for an assault on a victory target of 359.

Richardson reached 52 before he was bowled by Warne just before lunch, the second wicket to fall in an innings which then crumbled at such a rate that the match had been completed by the tea interval.

Phil Simmons, who scored his maiden Test century, looked in vain for a permanent partner after his captain's dismissal as Warne, playing in only his fifth Test, ran through the rest of the batting to become the first bowler of his type to take more than five wickets in a Test innings on the ground.

West Indies, all out for 219, thus went 1-0 down in the five-match series and they have never recovered from such a deficit to win a series against Australia.

Simmons, who was 80 not out at lunch, was eventually sixth out at 198. His 110 runs came off 178 deliveries and he had hit two sixes and eight fours when he became another victim for Warne, caught by Boon.

Richardson had no excuses. "I think that generally we were outplayed," he said. "Maybe if

we had taken a few catches early on it would have been a different story." Richardson said he wanted to put Warne's performance in perspective. "You have to remember there are a spinners who come in and take a lot of wickets in a match and you never hear of them again. I don't think our batsmen are afraid of him. We respect him as a Test player but he's not a worry."

Warne, who is a keen surfer said: "It would have to be close to the best I've ever bowled. I've had doubts that I could play at this level but I've had great support from everyone and now I feel a lot more comfortable."

Australia have named an unchanged squad for the third Test which starts on Saturday at Sydney, where spin bowlers usually have a large part to play. The West Indies may decide to leave out Carl Hooper.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 385 (M E Waugh 112, A R Border 110, C A Walsh 4 for 91). Second innings 198 (D R Martyn 67 not out).

WEST INDIES: First innings 233 (K L T Arthurton 71, B C Lara 52, C J McDermott 4 for 85).

Second innings: D L Haynes c Healy b Hughes 5; P V Simmons c Boon b Warne 110; R B Richardson b Warne 52; B C Lara c Boon b Whitley 13; K L Arthurton c Healy b Warne 13; C L Hooper c Whitley b Warne 0; J D Adams c Taylor b McDermott 16; D Williams c M E Waugh b Warne 0; R B Bishop c Taylor b Warne 7; C E L Ambrose not out 0; A Walsh c Hughes b Warne 0; Extras (b 3, nb 2, nb 1) 6.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-143, 3-148, 4-155, 5-177, 6-198. 7-228, 8-233, 9-233.

BOWLING: McDermott 17-6-69-1; Hughes 16-7-41-1; Whitley 10-2-32-1; Warne 22-2-62-7; M E Waugh 3-0-2-0.

Man of the match: S K Warne. PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test: Match drawn (Brisbane). Second Test: Jan 2 to 6 (Sydney). Fourth Test: Jan 23 to 27 (Adelaide). Fifth Test: Jan 30 to Feb 3 (Perth).

## Crowe seals series as Pakistan fail with bat

ANGLAND: New Zealand beat Pakistan by six wickets in a one-day international yesterday to win the three-match series 2-1.

Pakistan's batsmen failed for a third time, being bowled out for 139 in the 48th over at Eden Park, where they beat New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final.

New Zealand, at one stage in trouble at 45 for three, were steered to victory by Martin Crowe, the man of the match, who scored 57 not out and Ken Rutherford, who hit 28.

The win was set up by New Zealand's tight bowling attack. Willie Watson took four for 27, the best figures of his career, removing Rameez Raja and Saeed Anwar in consecutive balls and taking the crucial wicket of Javed Miandad. (Reuters)

PAKISTAN: Rameez Raja b Watson 23; Shahid Azeem run out 17; Salim Malik c Crowe b Watson 23; Saeed Anwar c Parsons b Watson 30; Imran Khan c Healy run out 2; Wasim Akram c Harris b Morrison 21; Naved Aslam c Parsons b Harris 0; Waqar Younis c Crowe b Morrison 0; Muzaffar Ahmed c Greatbatch b Watson 6; Extras (b 5, nb 3) 8.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-43, 3-47, 4-75, 5-77, 6-123, 7-123, 8-127, 9-128.

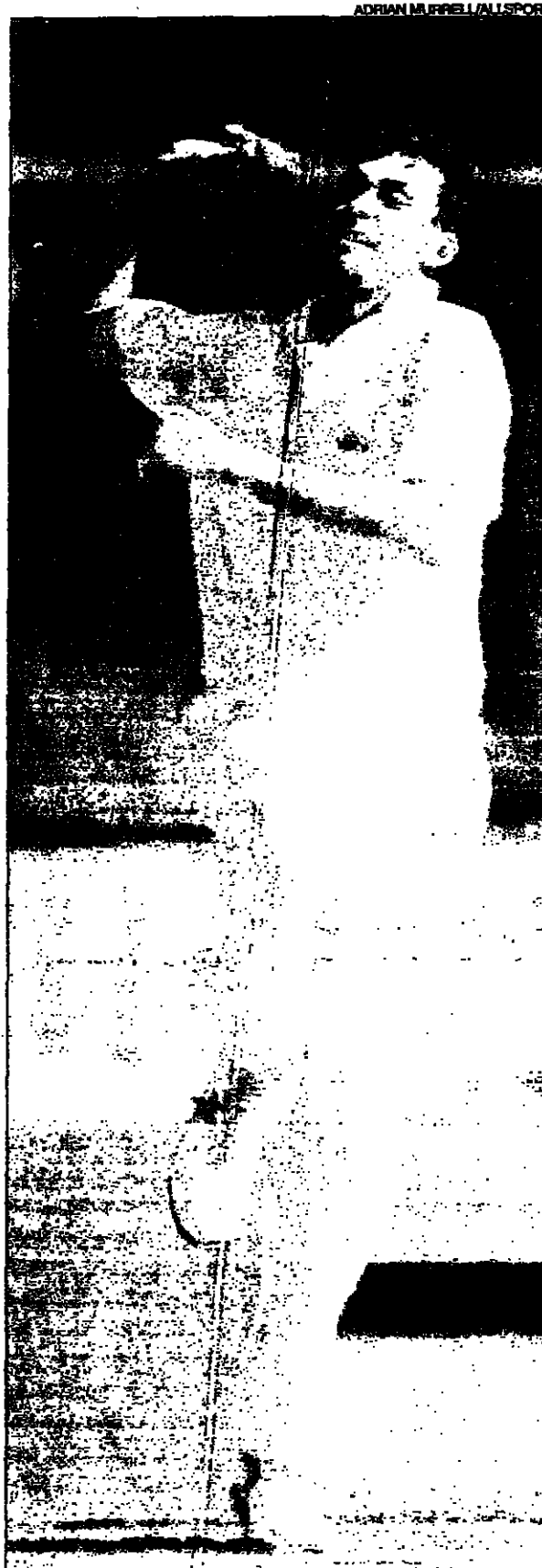
BOWLING: Morrison 10-1-27-2; Patel 10-2-25-0; Watson 8-4-1-27-4; Larsen 10-2-20-1; Harris 6-1-22-1; Jones 2-0-6-0; Latham 1-0-7-0.

NEW ZEALAND: M J Greatbatch c Mushaq b Waism 24; R T Latham c Morrison b Waism 0; A J Jones bow b Anwar 0; M D Crowe not out 57; K Rutherford not out 28; C Z Harris not out 11; Extras (b 3, nb 3) 11.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-34, 3-45, 4-105. BOWLING: Waism 9-2-28-1; Waism 10-2-27-1; Anwar 10-1-20-1; Mushaq 6-4-34-1; Salam 1-0-4-0; Shahid 3-0-14-0.

Man of the match: M D Crowe.

## The loneliness of the frustrated seam bowler



Before and after: Fraser harrying the batsmen — and now racing to regain fitness and form after another operation

## Fraser renews effort to reach Test peak

By IVO TENNANT

ANGUS Fraser would have established himself by now as one of the finest bowlers of his type, as well as of the age, had he been given immunity from injury. The sad reality is that he is now more accomplished dealing in unit trusts than in playing first-class cricket.

Bald statistics tell the story. Last season Fraser took only 18 championship wickets for Middlesex, and they cost him 64 runs apiece. He finished bottom of their averages. Inevitably, there are those who wonder whether he will ever again be the bowler who was an integral part of England's side — the

"captain's dream" as Graham Gooch called him. In the two years since he damaged a hip in Australia, there have been scant discernible signs of recovery.

Until now, in his latest operation, earlier this month, some loose bodies were successfully cleared out. Fraser has been told he can begin light training early in the new year, gradually increasing it until he joins England's fringe players at Lillehall in February and March. Then, in April he will be with Middlesex in Portugal. "Obviously I have to get myself as fit as possible before the summer and I won't know whether I can put in maximum effort until

I start bowling," he said. "But I am optimistic. I did not achieve much statistically last season, yet I did feel I was getting somewhere by the end of it." He was fit enough to walk 22 miles one day in October for Ian Botham and clarity.

There were times, earlier in the season, when depression became the handmaiden of frustration. In a championship match at Grace Road, Fraser had an altercation with one or two colleagues who overdid their encouragement, as Middlesex players tend to do.

He sulked on the boundary and wondered aloud in the pavilion whether he really wanted to be a stock

bowler for the rest of his career. That is one option as he proved in helping Middlesex win the Sunday league last season. But not for an England bowler still to reach his prime.

"My problem is partly in the mind. But it is disappointing being hidden, bowling a few overs and watching the ball going to someone else," he said. In addition to his accuracy and meanness at a sharp medium, his reputation had been forged on a stubborn desire to bowl all day. When he broke down on the 1990-91 tour of Australia, it was not long after he nearly collapsed in the dressing room in the second Test at Melbourne.

His figures of six for 82 were the best of his 11-Test career, during which he took 47 wickets at 26 apiece.

Now 27 and recompensed by Whittingdale in the City of London, Fraser does not wallow in self-pity, still less in self-delusion. He will know if and when he is ready for Test cricket. He confines himself for the time being to the odd pithy comment.

It is as if he had more in common with Alec Bedser than he already realised. To Fraser, the batsman who does not walk is every bit as much of a cheat as the ball-tamper. He is as uncomplicated as Bedser, as big-hearted and still potentially as great a bowler.

## Referees' powers may have to widen

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN PORT ELIZABETH

AS THE number of cricketers disciplined for bad behaviour mounts around the world, the International Cricket Council's (ICC) new code of conduct has surely proved its worth. Fines and suspensions admittedly bring a jarring note but are clearly necessary since the game became more aggressive and competitive in recent years.

When Sir Colin Cowdrey, the ICC chairman, introduced the code little more than 15 months ago, he admitted it might need revising in the light of experience. One problem to emerge from the present series between South Africa and India has been the different tolerance level for what is acceptable behaviour and what is not.

Many South Africans were amazed when, in the third Test match this week, Mike Smith, the former England captain and ICC match referee, saw no need to intervene after two Indians showed dissent at decisions. In separate incidents, more angry threw the ball to the ground and Shastri, the non-striker, hurled his bat away in dismay.

Both players crossed the narrow border line between disappointment and dissent but were not reported officially to Smith by the two South African umpires, who have limited experience at this level. As the ICC code's regulations stand, Smith was entitled to decide that he was not required to take action in the absence of any complaint being lodged.

As referee, though, Smith is also allowed under the rules to investigate any incident, whether it has been reported or not. Smith was almost alone in thinking that there was no need for him to take unilateral action on both occasions.

To be fair, the code has been framed deliberately to avoid any infringement of the umpires' traditional responsibilities for all on-field judgments. In future, however, the ICC might have to consider whether referees should be asked to intervene directly more often if umpires fail to be strict enough.

The South African board is particularly conscious of the need for players to behave properly, as the series is being shown extensively on television throughout the country as part of its drive to create interest in communities where cricket has not previously been widely played.

There was an object lesson earlier in the tour of how youngsters emulate what they see, when Kapil Dev ran out Kirsten, the non-striker, for backing up in a one-day international here. The next day, a similar incident took place in an under-13 tournament in Bloemfontein. The bowler admitted he had seen what had happened on television the previous evening.

# THE ENGLAND TOUR OF INDIA

BALL-BY-BALL COVERAGE OF THE THREE TESTS AND ALL SIX ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS. LIVE AND EXCLUSIVE ONLY ON SKY. FROM JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>





## YACHTING

## Nuclear Electric heads nail-biting race for Hobart

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE leading crews in the British Steel Challenge were squeezing every last bit of speed out of their yachts last night in a nail-biting drag race over the final 500 miles to the finish of this second stage of the race at Hobart, Tasmania.

Richard Merriweather and the crew on the second-placed yacht Commercial Union pulled back three miles overnight on their leading rivals Nuclear Electric. Two other teams, Pride of Teesside and Group 4 Securitas were racing alongside each other with Coopers & Lybrand chasing three miles astern.

After the two yachts came into sight for the first time yesterday, Mike Golding, Group 4's skipper reported: "After 7,000 miles, it was our first sighting of another yacht

since breaking away from the fleet towards Florianopolis (Brazil) to repair our forestay. The whole crew came on deck as Pride of Teesside approached and crossed our stern about a mile away."

The Heath Insured crew can look forward to as much as a 16 hour allowance for the time they lost going to the aid of British Steel II after she was dismantled two weeks ago. If the international jury in Hobart agree to the calculations made by Captain Spencer Drummond, the race director, this could lift the yacht to fourth place. Golding's Group 4 crew are due to receive as much as 12 hours for their efforts in providing fuel to the dismantled crew.

To complicate matters, Ian MacGillivray, the skipper of Pride of Teesside, is also

claiming compensation for altering course, needlessly as it turned out to provide British Steel with further fuel, but he is unlikely to get as much time as Group 4.

Assuming the yachts maintain their relative positions within the fleet until Tasmania, John Chittenden and his leading crew on Nuclear Electric who could reach Hobart as early as Sunday, 13 days ahead of original estimates, holds a provisional lead over the fleet on overall elapsed time. Based on yesterday's positions, Chittenden's team has a 17 hour advantage over Hofbrau Lager, followed by Heath Insured a further three hours adrift after these first two legs from Southampton.

However, with the winds expected to back to the south-west and drop to 15 knots overnight, benefiting the yachts to the south of this tightly bunched fleet, fingers are being crossed.

Richard Tudor and his crew on British Steel II, now motor-ing towards Chatham Island, were told yesterday that their new mast cannot be air freighted to them in time for their arrival in Wellington at the weekend. Instead, the mast will be air freighted to Sydney and trans-shipped to Hobart, arriving there on January 12. Tudor and his crew are now expected to stop in Wellington to refuel again then continue to Hobart under power.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1500 GMT yesterday with miles to Hobart): 1. Nuclear Electric (J. Chittenden) 587 miles; 2. Commercial Union (R. Merriweather) 600; 3. Hofbrau Lager (P. Goel) 602; 4. Group 4 Securitas (M. Golding) and Pride of Teesside (I. MacGillivray) 1,030; 5. Coopers & Lybrand (V. Cherr) 1,030; 6. Heath Insured (A. Donnelly) 1,044; 7. Interplay (P. Jiffels) 1,238; 8. Phone-Police (P. Phillips) 1,723. Behind British Steel II (R. Tudor) dismantled and heading for Chatham Island.

□ Race information supplied by BT.

## Ragamuffin hoists the pennant high

Hobart: Syd Fischer, Australia's leading ocean-racing competitor for more than two decades, has at last won the prize that has eluded him longest: the Tattersalls Cup for International Offshore Rule handicap winner in the Sydney-Hobart race (Bob Ross writes).

Sailing the 50-footer Ragamuffin, the eighth boat of that name he has owned, Fischer, 65, was yesterday declared to be unbeatable, although smaller IOR yachts were still at sea.

Second on IOR corrected time was the line-honours winner, the maxi ketch, New Zealand Endeavour, designed and built for the 1993-4

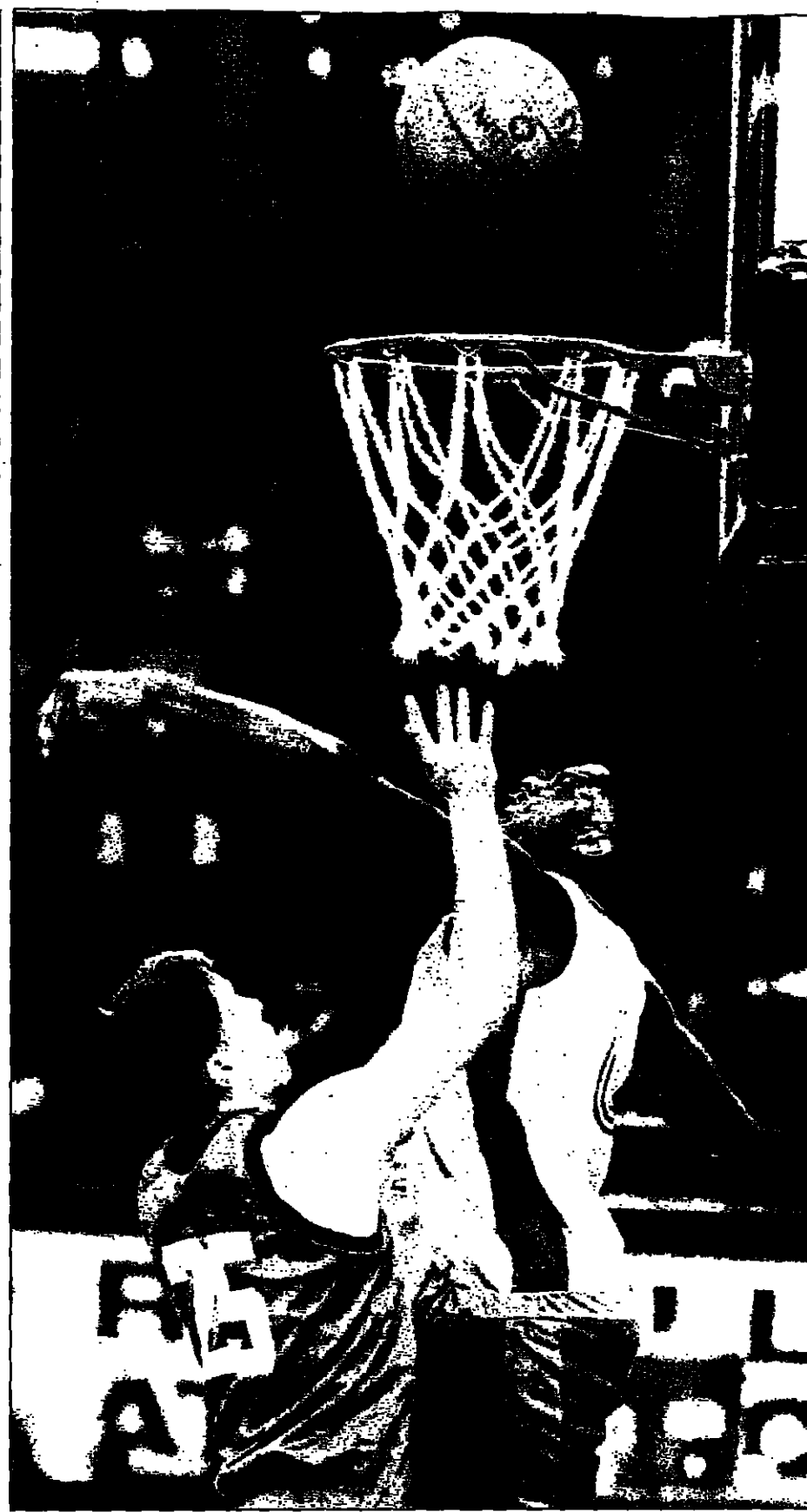
Whitbread Round the World Race. Third was Atara, two years' winner.

Fischer had twice taken line honours in the race, won Britain's classic Fastnet race, captained the winning Australian Admiral's Cup team of 1989, and won the One Ton Cup.

He will captain the Australian team to challenge for the Admiral's Cup in Britain in 1993.

RESULTS: International Offshore Rule (provisional): 1. Ragamuffin (S. Fischer, Aus), corrected time 21h 21m 00s; 2. New Zealand Endeavour (D. Salton, NZ), 22h 11m 00s; 3. Atara (J. Storey, Ire), 23h 01m 00s; 4. Salomance (M. J. Fiegeling, Aus), 24h 00m 00s.

International Measurement System: 1. Endeavour (A. Newell, Aus), 2:18:47:28; 2. Moring (M. S. (A. Newell, Aus), 2:18:47:28; 3. Zero III (S. Tsumura, Japan), 2:18:17:14; 4. Or Fie (D. Coulter, Aus), 2:18:08:31.



Juniors James Harrison, of Guildford, left, and Parris Gordon, of East London, rise high before yesterday's world invitation basketball championship

## Spanish eyes at ears find time for Robinson's style

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Madrid: Michael Robinson has used his foreigner's Spanish and sharp wit to emerge as Spain's No. 1 radio and television sports personality, something he admits he never was as a footballer, even in his heyday in Liverpool's 1984 European Cup-winning team.

"To be quite honest, I'm shocked by the success I've had here," he said. "I'm really loving it at the moment but frightened to death if I analyse it too much I'll lose it. I won't even buy a house here for fear it might jinx me," he added.

Robinson is all over Spanish radio and television, speaking his English-accented Spanish an average of 20 hours per week and earning more than he ever did playing for teams like Liverpool, Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers.

It's his slightly off-centre Spanish that seems to hold the audience. "He'd lose some of his charisma if he spoke perfect Spanish," his wife Chris, said.

Robinson's Spanish is good but the fact that it's imperfect allows him to get away with syntax and content that native speakers might not. "I think I have a simple, down-to-earth style which most football fans can identify with," said the former striker.

"I have little sayings I use in Spanish. With my style I think working class people feel I'm speaking to them."

Robinson, 34, went to Spain in 1987 to play for Pamplona-based Osasuna in the Spanish first division. It turned out to be the last leg of his playing career that ended in 1989 when his knees finally had enough.

Unable to play, Robinson tore up his contract, a move that seemed to catch Spaniards by surprise. "In England it would have been seen as a done thing. I couldn't have lived with myself collecting money and not playing," Rob-

inson said. "Here it was seen as more unusual, a noble thing to do."

Refusing the money, and the news coverage Robinson got for doing it, caught the attention of state-run Spanish Television (TVE), which hired him to do commentary on the English League. Shortly after, Robinson also caught on selling air time for the pan-European cable TV channel, Eurosport.

But his big break came covering the 1990 World Cup for TVE. "Things seemed to go particularly well for me," Robinson said. "Before, only insomniacs saw me on those late-night English League shows."

Then came an offer from Canal Plus, the private television station, followed by another from the radio network Cadena Ser. Robinson hosts two television programs weekly and at least five radio shows, and will cover the upcoming five nations' rugby union season.

Though English, Robinson played 23 times internationally for the Republic of Ireland, qualifying to play for the Irish through his ancestry. He admits he is better in the booth than on the field.

"That's not too hard to do," he said. "I consider myself a fine student of the game but was never quite able to put into practice what I understood. Maybe I'm more comfortable talking about it."

Maybe, but only if he's speaking Spanish. Robinson said one of his most difficult moments came about six months ago doing Brazilian Cup commentary in English, not Spanish, for BBC television.

"All the phrases I have, all the stock things I fall back on are in Spanish," Robinson said. "I kept slipping out with Spanish words and saying things like 'numero eight', mixing the languages."

## ATHLETICS: FORMER CHAMPION CONFIDENT OF RESTORING CROSS COUNTRY TRADITION

## Stewart sees British gold in the distance

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IAN Stewart, who has been given the chance by the British Athletic Federation (BAF) to work off his frustration at the standard of men's distance running in Britain, says that it may take five years before the results of his labours can be counted in gold medals.

Stewart, the last Briton to win the men's world cross country title, nearly 20 winters ago, begins work soon as the BAF's road running and cross country promotions officer. Although he has been hired to enhance the profile of the poor relations of track and field, he recognises that his job will be impossible without successful British distance runners to promote.

Therefore, helping to develop a breed of British runners capable of taking on the Africans is uppermost in his mind. But it will take five

years, he says, because his work will start with the juniors, the 17 to 19-year-olds.

"Our seniors are not going to change their habits because I tell them to," Stewart said. "Our future lies with the juniors and how they are brought up."

At a recent national coaches conference, Stewart despaired when one coach told him that his athletes were more interested in money than medals. "The point we have to make to these kids is that medals mean a lot more money," Stewart said. Money from endorsements, sponsors' bonuses and appearance fees. Already Stewart has begun to put the message across, staging a young athletes' seminar in Birmingham three weeks ago. He would run one for the seniors, but doubts whether it would be supported.

He is scathing about the standard of men's distance running in Britain and his

concern for the future is understandable. No British male came remotely near a medal in any event from 800 metres upwards at the world junior championships in Seoul in September, nor in the world junior cross country championships in Boston last March.

"We have got problems, no question," Stewart said. But he rejects the argument that the Africans have too many natural advantages.

"A West German (Dieter Baumann) won the 5,000 metres at the Olympics and that could have been a Brit as easily as a West German, surely," Stewart said. "The 10,000 metres at the Olympics and world championships were won in the 27min 40sec range, so we are not talking about times out of this world."

"We have pussy-footed around for too long. Are we not better shooting at the moon and missing than aiming at the gutter and hitting?" Stewart is well qualified to judge others. Apart from his world cross country victory in 1975, he is a former European 5,000 metres champion. There are those who disagree with his appointment, the first of his kind in Britain, claiming that his propensity for speaking his mind is not suited to sports promotion. But look



Stewart: concerned

## MOTOR SPORT

## Paris-Dakar entries well down

THE beginning of a new year would not be the same without problems affecting the start of the Paris to Dakar rally. After a break with tradition last year, when the rally switched to Cape Town as a destination to the Sahara's desert tracks for 1993 and the event starts tomorrow against the usual backdrop of political battles, difficulties with the route and team withdrawals.

The new French laws concerning tobacco sponsorship have dealt a heavy blow to the 16-day rally, as has the uncertain political climate in several African countries, including Mali, where a French competitor was shot dead in 1991.

Most of the mileage in the fourteenth Le Dakar will be in the Sahara as competitors cross Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania before reaching the finish in Senegal on January 16.

The loss of tobacco sponsorship has helped reduce the overall entry of car and motorcycle teams to 155, compared with 343 last year. But there is still considerable quality with factory entries from Citroen, Mitsubishi, KIA, Yamaha and Honda.

Mitsubishi took the honours in Cape Town last year while

Citroen will be looking to repeat their victory in the Paris to Dakar event. Favourite again is Finland's Ari Vatanen, whose victory in 1991 brought his number of wins in the race to four.

His Citroen team-mates include the Paris-Peking winner, Pierre Lartigue, of France, Timo Salonen, who like Vatanen is a former world rally champion, and the 1992 Paris-Cape Town winner Hubert Auriol, the only man to have won the race driving a car and riding a motorcycle.

He will be partnered by a former motorcycle colleague, Gilles Picard.

## SPORT ON TELEVISION

## BSkyB expands golf coverage in US

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting yesterday announced it would be screening 40 tournaments from the 1993 United States PGA Tour. The schedule includes the US Open and the US PGA Championship but not the Masters, which is not run by the US PGA.

The deal, for mainly live transmissions, will dent Screensport's reputation as the

main golf channel on satellite television. Screensport has been showing the US Tour, as well as the European Tour.

Sky's US golf coverage, which starts with the Tournament of Champions at Carlsbad, California, next week, will fit around its football, rugby league and cricket programmes. On Sunday, January 10, for example, Sky will

feature the Premier League match between Sheffield Wednesday and Norwich City, followed by rugby league until 9pm, and then the American golf until midnight.

David Livingstone will be the presenter for the golf programmes, for which the expert analysis will be Tony Jacklin and Ken Brown, both former US Tour members.

## SPORTS LETTERS

## Negative effects of anthems

From Mr J. S. Hunter

Sir, The furore over the playing of national anthems before the England v South Africa rugby union international at Twickenham last month worried me.

The uneasy relationship between nationalism and nationalism, and the oft-mistaken equation of nationalism with patriotism, gives me concern

enough without their involvement in sport in a way which may only have negative side-effects for all parties.

Unfortunate connections between nationalism and sport can be traced back over many years and certainly there is clear evidence that we have never removed from sport the vestiges of this connection so strongly established at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

The connection can manifest itself in many ways, from the self-destructive to the nationally demeaning.

With regard to the self-destructive, many will vividly recall images of tears streaming down the cheeks of Paul Thorburn, to the strains of the Welsh anthem "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" (to the ultimate god of no party involved).

With regard to the nationally demeaning, who can but abhor the hordes of supporters, of football particularly, who define the national anthem via its use as a "battering", whilst wearing accompanying insignia, such as Union Jacks emblazoned on chests or buttocks?

However, do we not encourage both extremes, and intermediate types, of behaviour through insistence on the use of the national anthem at some sporting occasions in the first place?

By establishing a connection between the anthem and sport, is not the door opened for rampant nationalism of the worst kind? In fact, do not many supporters, and some players, use the cloak of nationalism (made respectable by the anthem) to commit excesses which go relatively unpunished in the name of "nationalism"?

The examples given earlier contrast strongly with the absence of anthems from occasions such as the Wimbledon tennis and the Open golf championships. Are there not obvious lessons to be learnt?

Certainly they are compatible with my view that the national anthem should be used only in its rightful place, ie at occasions of state attended by the Queen — to the advantage of sport, I would contend, but most importantly, for the guaranteed respect of the anthem itself.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN S. HUNTER,  
Head,  
School of Physical Education and Sport,  
West London Institute,  
Borough Road,  
Isleworth,  
Middlesex.

## Worry over discipline

From Mr D. P. Hewavidana

Sir, Now that the England team has begun its tour of England and Sri Lanka, am I the only one who has great concern over its discipline under the new team manager?

Nearly two years ago Richard Streeton described (February 18, 1991) the following incident during an England A "Test" match in Colombo:

"Newport... strode angrily down the pitch and said something. He walked away at the end of the over, shouted an obscenity, and threw his sun hat and towel on the ground and kicked them. Keith Fletcher, the team manager, was surprisingly tolerant afterwards. He said: 'Every bowler is entitled to 'blow up' occasionally. He will not be fined...'"

I rest my case.  
Yours faithfully,  
DEVISIRI P.  
HEWAVIDANA,  
119 Grasmere Street,  
Leicester.

## Name of the game

From Mr Hugh Pallot

Sir, I was interested to read in a football report earlier this season of Holmes setting up a goal for Watson in a cup-tie between Carlisle and Norwich. It sounded like a much more appropriate combination than Holmes and Moriarty, of the Welsh rugby union side of a few years ago.

Such aptness is apparently not uncommon in football. Only Andy May's close-season transfer from Bristol City prevented Bryant and May from continuing to light up Ashton Gate with their skills this season, while Gilbert and Sullivan (Billy and Colin) collaborated briefly in the Portsmouth back four in the early Eighties.

My favourite is the all-Labour prime ministerial mid-field of Leicester City in the late 1980s. Ramsey, MacDonald and Wilson. I also like Flanagan and Allen of Crystal Palace. There must be more famous duos (or trios) who have been reincarnated in league football.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH PALLOT,  
96 Laleham Road,  
Staines, Middlesex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.







## BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceebees** (88219)  
7.00 **News**, regional news and weather (5878344)  
7.10 **Children's BBC** begins with *Hallo Spencer*. Puppet series (7) (2532319) 7.30 *Babar*. Animation (7) (9140851)  
8.00 **News**, regional news and weather (705702) 8.10 *Cuckoo*land (7) (2847183) 8.30 *Sawp*. Animation (7) (1557033)  
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather (5878344) 9.05 *Come Midway*. Final episode of the Australian drama series (7) (4120570)  
9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Ideas for youngsters at a loose end (7) (2370764) 10.05 *Play*. For the very young (7) (5576257)  
10.25 **Film: On the Beach** (1959) starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. One of the great MGM musicals, following the amorous adventures of three sailors on a 24-hour shore leave in New York. Directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly (39357509)  
12.05 *Talk to the Animals*. Profile of Samantha Khury who claims that she can communicate with animals (7) (8029784) 12.55 **Regional News and weather** (5122238)  
1.00 **News** with Andrew Harvey. (Ceebees) Weather (40752764) 1.10 *Neighbours*. (Ceebees) (7) (11378221)  
1.30 **Film: The Boy Who Could Fly** (1986) starring Lucy Deakins and Jay Underwood. Warm family film about a sensitive girl who moves to a new neighbourhood and befriends an autistic orphan boy. Directed by Nick Castle. (Ceebees) (7) (2575852) 3.10 *Cartoon* (5082523)  
3.20 *The Little Tameless Pals*. With Esther Rantzen (3025764)



Newly married: Robert Redford and Jane Fonda (3.50pm)

- 3.50 **Film: Barefoot in the Park** (1967) starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. Neil Simon's comedy about a newly-married couple living in a ramshackle apartment in Greenwich Village. Directed by Gene Seals (552696) 5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (339073)  
6.00 **News** with Andrew Harvey. (Ceebees) Weather (537054)  
6.15 **Regional News** (532503) 6.30 *Inside Ulster*. Theatrical Showbusiness. New Year's Eve Show. Mike Smith introduces a festive edition of the game show. The guests include Lesley Joseph and Keith Barron. (Ceebees) (7) (734)  
7.00 **Eastenders**. (Ceebees) (7) (7325)  
7.30 *Bruce Forsyth: 50 Years in Showbusiness*. A tribute to the enduring entertainer. (Ceebees) (7) (531986)  
8.20 **Film: Appointment with Death** (1987). Another case for Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot (Peter Ustinov), whose hopes of a relaxing holiday in Palestine are dashed by the murder of a wicked stepmother. Lauren Bacall and John Gielgud sparkle in supporting roles but it is a tedious effort. Directed by Michael Winner (32810141)  
10.00 **News** with Andrew Harvey. (Ceebees) Regional news and weather (625344)  
10.20 *Clive James* on 1992. An acerbic review of the year by the *Ant* host (7) (114257) Northern Ireland: Rab C. Nesbitt 11.10 *Scott's* 'I' Why 11.00-1.00am *Hogmanay Live*; Wales: Except for Viewers in England 11.00 Rab C. Nesbitt 11.50 *Hogmanay Live* 1.00am *Happy New Year*. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, reflects on the opportunities the New Year offers (5622913)  
12.10 **Film: The Impresario** (1985) starring Michael Caine. The first in the series of Harry Palmer spy novels, based on the novels by Michael Deighton. Palmer is ordered to investigate a brain drain among British scientists. A stylish, downbeat thriller, directed by Sidney J. Furie. (Ceebees) (555081) 1.55 **Weather** (834664)

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## BBC2

- 8.55 **Film: Spirit of the People** (1940). Raymond Massey stars in a solid drama about the early life of John Cromwell (5271948)  
9.40 **Film: Shall We Dance** (1937). b/w. Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers season continues with this George Balanchine ballet. Directed by Mark Sandrich (87072073)  
10.25 **China Street**. Animation (192073)  
10.40 **China Street**. Animation (192073)  
11.30 **Aspen - Colorado**. A humorous look at the United States' most famous ski resort by the distinguished documentary director Frederick Wiseman (58804238)  
1.50 **Geraint Evans Masterclass**. In the last of the series Sir Geraint works with young singers on Mozart's *Coste fan tutte* (7) (1996412)  
2.50 **The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures**. The penultimate lecture given by Professor Charles Sifert. He discusses Symmetry, Seriation and Sex (5042220) 3.50 *The Works*. A scientific look at liquid engineering (7). (Ceebees) (7) (3332)  
4.10 **10 to 10: The Last Harlot** (b/w). Barker Karpis reflects on his career as he cuts his last head of hair before retirement (7) (7611412)  
4.20 **World Darts**. Highlights of the final of the 1992 Embassy World championship between Mike Gregory and Phil Taylor (7) (5534677)  
5.00 **Fiddler's Green**. Nick Field wins his final Open (7) (2478629)  
5.50 **Life With Eliza**. Last in the Edwardian comedy drama series starring John Sessions (86580)  
6.00 **Film: The Black Stallion** (1979) starring Mickey Rooney, Kelly Reno and Teri Garth. Lush version of the children's story about the adventures of a boy and his Arabian horse. Directed by Carroll Ballard. (Ceebees) (7) (49194)  
8.00 **I'm A Stranger Here Myself - Kurt Weill in America**. Kurt Weill eventually sailed for New York and quickly found a home from home. "I even count in English", he wrote, after Broadway successes such as *Kickerbocker Hotley*, *Lady in the Dark* and the success of *Verano* confirmed a seemingly effortless transition from Brechtian opera to the American musical stage. Weill's determination to get under the American skin is impressive. He worked with Moss Hart, Maxwell Anderson, Ira Gershwin and Alan Jay Lerner. He set music to the poems of Walt Whitman. The crossing of the Atlantic once again repeated his marriage to Lotte Lenya. Bertie Gould's lush illustrations and first-hand memories and anticipates the English National Opera production of *Street Scene* which is on BBC2 tomorrow (7) (6783)  
9.00 **The Vampyre - A Soap Opera**. Part three of the updating of a 19th-century romantic opera (7) (787239)  
9.25 **The Doug Armstrong All-Stars**. Music and comedy from the irreverent Australian hit. Their guest is comedian Flacco (420431)



On a medieval quest: Graham Chapman, right (10.00pm)

- 10.00 **Film: Monty Python and the Holy Grail** (1974). CHORUS. The Python team launch the King Arthur legend with everyone else. Never mind the story, which is only an excuse for a volley of zany and inconsequential gags, served up with the usual interruptions and false starts. The film was shot in Scotland, handily so considering the modest budget, and if the jokes fail there is usually splendid scenery to look at. The revue format of loosely connected sketches, helped along by the Python's animators, sometimes struggles to fill the 10 minutes. But the lads have soaked themselves sufficiently in the conventions of medieval chivalry to know how to send them up and there are ample gags to warrant staying the course. (Ceebees) (80798). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster News Review 10.20 *Clive James* 12.00am-1.35 *Film: Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Wales: In the Making 10.20 *Clive James* 12.05-1.30 *Film: Monty Python and the Holy Grail*  
11.30 *Rab C. Nesbitt*. Comedy from the Scots street philosopher, starring John Sessions (862203)  
12.20am *Without You I'm Nothing* starring American comedienne Sandra Bernhard (7) (2686150) 1.40 **Weather** (724120)

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV News** (5084615)  
9.25 **The New Adventure of He-Man**. Animation (525870) 9.50 *Theme News* (9732229) 9.55 *Cartoon Time* (8155412)  
10.15 **Film: The Sons of Katie Elder** (1968) starring John Wayne and Dean Martin. Lively but routine western about four brothers who return to Texas for the funeral of their mother, discover that she died penniless and vow their revenge. Directed by Henry Hathaway (79044073)  
12.30 **ITN News**. (Oracle) Weather (1204250) 12.50 **Thames News** (1910229) 1.00 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (22344)  
1.30 **Film: Cheech** (1989) starring Keith Coogan and Lucy Deakins. A Disney adventure about two American children living in Kenya who adopt an orphan cheetah cub. When it seems that they will be returning to California they decide to re-train the animal to fend for itself in the wild, but then it is captured by a poacher. Directed by Jeff Blyth (7) (84986)  
3.00 **ITN News** headlines (7196948) 3.05 **Thames News** headlines (7196219) 3.10 *Talk to the Animals*. Profile of Samantha Khury who claims that she can communicate with animals (7) (8029784) 3.15 *Cartoon* (5675515)  
3.45 **B & B**. Family drama starring Kevin Whately as an unemployed architect who decides to turn his south coast house into a bed and breakfast establishment but runs into opposition from the authorities (7) (882141)  
5.40 **Early Evening News**. (Oracle) Weather (584988) 5.55 **Thames News** (807325)  
6.00 **Home and Away** (7). (Oracle) (870)  
6.30 **Emmerdale**. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales, where villagers greet 1993 with mixed emotions (Oracle) (122)  
7.00 **Murder At the Farm**. Who Killed Carl Bridgewater? Drama. Documentary written and presented by the journalist Paul Ford about the murder of the newspaper boy in the west Midlands in 1978. Four men were found guilty but continued to protest their innocence. Was there a message of justice? (4661)



Trouble brewing: Trudie Goodwin is put in danger (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **The BBC: When Push Comes to Shove**. Off-duty PCs Loxton and Quattran place WPC Ackland (Trudie Goodwin) in danger when they have a brush with a violent thug. (Oracle) (1141)  
8.30 **John Le Carré's A Murder Of Quality** starring Denholm Elliott and Glenda Jackson. Spy-master George Smiley returns to join forces with his former colleague Alisa Bletney after she receives a letter from the wife of public school master predicting her own death and warning her husband to beware (7). (Oracle) (7) (88431)  
10.30 **News**. (Oracle) Weather (48296)  
10.45 **The End of the Year Show: The Best...** from Thames. A compilation of clips from Thames Television classics (5615851)  
11.00 **News**. Followed by *Big Ben* (563073)  
11.30 **A Carlton New Year**. A music and comedy special presented by Chris Tarrant heralding the start of Carlton, the new franchise holder for weekday television in London. Among the guests are Paul McCartney, Scuzz and the London Inspirational Choir (71243)  
1.30 **Film: Best Defense** (1984) starring Dudley Moore and Eddie Murphy. Feeble comedy about an engineer who stumbles across a secret formula that is being sought by a madcap industrial spy. Directed by Willard Huyck (870456)  
3.15 **Film: Murder Takes All** (1989) starring Stacy Keach. Micky Spillane's private detective Mike Hammer accepts a palmy case and ends up being framed for murder. Directed by John Niccolai (2918270) 8.20 *News* (72717)  
4.05 **Backstage '92**. Highlights from the year's big musical events (7) (874739)  
5.55 **ITN Morning News** (542555). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Cartoons** (8457) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (28899)  
9.00 *You Bet Your Life*. American game show (7) (6245877)  
9.25 *Laugh In* and *Hardy* (5818508) 9.30 *Sesame Street* (80215)  
10.30 **Pro-Celebrity Quiz Challenge**. This morning Hale Irwin at Torrance are joined by boxer Jim Watt and Going for Gold. Classic FM's Henry Kelly who plays a shot at the ninth stroke of magical mastery, a joy to behold, easily stalling it. duflers he played on the previous eight holes (51668)  
11.30 *Kate and Allie*. American comedy series (3967)  
12.00 *Glaziers*. The third of a four-part Asian songwriting competition (18560)  
12.30 **Famous People... Famous Places... Quiz game** (7) (81431)  
1.00 **Film: For the Love of Benji** (1977). Children's adventure about remarkable mongrel. When his master is drugged and kidnapped by a spy in Athens, the villain uses Benji to hide vital information on his paw. Directed by Joe Camp (87219)  
2.30 *Baroque*. The musical relationship between classic and jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and singer Kathleen Battle (7) (81306)  
4.00 *One Family*. The price of bread. A portrait of a Palestinian family whose life is blighted by political oppression (8290)  
5.00 **CHOICE**. Part of the project that kicked off with Peter Greenaway's *Dawn*, this stylish portrait comes from the French film director Alain Resnais. The George Gershwin story has been told, not least in television documentaries, but Resnais brings it up fresh. For one thing he starts from the end, Gershwin's early death from a brain tumour, and works back. For another, he breaks up the standard formula of clips and interviews with a series of expressive montages, one of which offers a year-by-year chronicle of the composer's prolific output. The film also makes striking use of old photographs and painted backgrounds. But there is content as well as packaging, with a proper tribute to Gershwin's innovative style. Admirers include Resnais's fellow directors Bertrand Tavernier and Martin Scorsese (7) (8306)  
6.00 *Rosamunde*. Widescreen comedy series starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (7). (Teletext) (41)  
6.30 **Gamechanger**. A special part edition of the computer game show. The guests include Linford Christie and Carl Lewis (764)  
7.00 *The Wonder Years*. A compilation of clips from the first four years of the comedy about growing up in 1960s America, starring Fred Savage (7) (4659)  
7.30 *News* summary and weather (140122) Followed by *The Magic of Bing Crosby*. A musical history of one of the world's most successful entertainers (564219)



Blat from the comic past: Max Miller lives again (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Heroes of Comedy**. CHOICE. John Fisher's loving compilation is a celebration of British comedians with examples from the variety stage, cinema, radio and television. The clips run from Robb Wilton in 1930 to Frankie Howard in 1991, with a glance back to Dan Leno and comments from contemporary practitioners such as Victoria Wood and John Sessions. Without trying to impose any pattern or thesis, Fisher cross-cuts revealingly between Howard and Max Miller, sells Les Dawson's "dame" against Norman Evans' and explores favourite joke subjects such as hospitals and sex. But essentially this is a chance to wallow in a non-stop feast of fun, served up by the best in the business - Harry Tate, Sid Field, Wilf Hay, Max Wall, Jimmy James, Tommy Cooper, Ken Dodd and many, many others. Seldom will two-and-a-half hours pass so quickly (7) (844306)  
11.00 *Ready, Steady, Go!* A vintage edition of the 1960s pop music programme featuring the Rolling Stones (7) (4219)  
11.30 **Big Breakfast** End of the Year Show. With Chris Evans, Gaby Roslin, Paula Yates and Matt Lauer (86431)  
1.00am *Roger Moore*. *Cartoon* (568739)  
1.10 *Ray Charles*. The veteran blues musician in a concert recorded in America in 1991 (7) (251537)  
2.20 **Free Concert**. The Free perform before an audience of more than 400,000 during the Isle of Wight festival in 1970 (4658823). Ends at 3.10

## VARIATIONS

## ANGLIA

- As London except: 9.55 *Clive's Life* (7) (721368) 10.45-12.30 *Film: Lost in London* (4281619) 1.30-3.00 *Film: Charlie, the Lonesome Cougar* (40488)  
6.30 *Anglia News* (577235) 7.00 *Emmerdale* (2483) 7.30-8.00 *ITN News* (577235) 8.05-8.30 *ITN News* (577235) 8.35-9.00 *ITN News* (577235) 9.05-9.30 *ITN News* (577235) 9.35-10.00 *ITN News* (577235) 10.05-10.30 *ITN News* (577235) 10.35-11.00 *ITN News* (577235) 11.05-11.30 *ITN News* (577235) 11.35-12.00 *ITN News* (577235) 12.05-12.30 *ITN News* (577235) 12.35-1.00 *ITN News* (577235) 1.05-1.30 *ITN News* (577235) 1.35-2.00 *ITN News* (577235) 2.05-2.30 *ITN News* (577235) 2.35-3.00 *ITN News* (577235) 3.05-3.30 *ITN News* (577235) 3.35-4.00 *ITN News* (577235) 4.05-4.30 *ITN News* (577235) 4.35-5.00 *ITN News* (577235) 5.05-5.30 *ITN News* (577235) 5.35-6.00 *ITN News* (577235) 6.05-6.30 *ITN News* (577235) 6.35-7.00 *ITN News* (577235) 7.05-7.30 *ITN News* (577235) 7.35-8.00 *ITN News* (577235) 8.05-8.30 *ITN News* (577235) 8.35-9.00 *ITN News* (577235) 9.05-9.30 *ITN News* (577235) 9.35-10.00 *ITN News* (577235) 10.05-10.30 *ITN News* (577235) 10.35-11.00 *ITN News* (577235) 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Boardman and Gunnell among Britain's gold medal team recognised

## Olympic winners are honoured

By DAVID POWELL

THE sportsmen and women who brought Olympic glory to Britain in Barcelona last summer are recognised in the New Year's honours list published today. Sally Gunnell, the 400 metres hurdles champion, and Chris Boardman, the 4,000 metres cycling pursuit gold medal-winner, are appointed MBEs, as are the rowers, Matthew Pinsent, Greg Searle and Jonny Searle.

Their fellow Olympic champions, Linford Christie and Steven Redgrave, do not appear on the list because they have been honoured before. Mary Glen Haig, one of Britain's two representatives on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) — the Princess Royal is the other — is elevated from OBE to Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Tanni Grey and Chris Holmes, Britain's Paralympic champions who won ten gold medals between them, are also created MBEs. Grey won four athletics wheelchair events

and the partially-sighted Holmes six in the swimming pool.

Gordon Strachan, the inspiration behind Leeds United's Barclays League championship victory last season, is appointed an OBE for his services to football, and another Scot, David Sole, who captained his country's rugby union team a record 25 times before retiring last summer, is similarly recognised.

Strachan said: "Although it is a personal honour, I regard it as one for the club and for the city of Leeds as well." Sole took Scotland to the grand slam in his first season as captain in 1989-90.

"I'm chuffed about this," Boardman said yesterday. "It is great to have the recognition and now the next step must be to see how we can use it to help cycling." Boardman was the first British winner of an Olympic individual cycling gold medal for 84 years. "I've always said that it takes many bricks to build a wall and I

owe so much to the team that has supported me," he said.

Gunnell's award comes after a year in which she captained the British women's Olympic team, became the first British woman to win an Olympic track race for 28 years, then went off to Miami to be married.

Pinsent, winner of the men's coxed pairs with Redgrave, is joined on the MBE rostrum by the Searle brothers, together with the man who coxed them to victory in the men's coxed pairs, Garry Herbert.

Glen Haig, 74, competed in four successive Olympics, from 1948 to 1960, was chairman of the Central Council of Physical Recreation from 1974 to 1982, and became an IOC member in 1983. She is honoured for her services to sport, which include serving on the IOC medical commission. As she will be 75 next year, she must retire from the IOC.

Another leading international British officer of sport, Arthur Jones, president of the International Badminton Federation for the past two years, is created a CBE. Under his presidency, badminton made its entry into the Olympics. He is a former president of the Badminton Association of England.

Micky Stewart, who retired last summer after six years as the England cricket team manager, is appointed an OBE. Only 12 of 58 Test matches were won under his management, but his worth was summed up by Graham Gooch, who said: "When I started, all the assistance that a captain got was the chairman of selectors strolling up to the nets and offering what advice he could. Micky changed all that."



On a cycle of success: Barcelona winner Boardman is created an MBE

## Coleman given honour

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID Coleman, the most-imitated, the most-respected (and, at the same time, the most-mocked) of British television sports commentators, is today appointed OBE in the New Year Honours for his services to broadcasting.

Coleman has been the BBC's "voice of sport" for more than 30 years and is still going strong, heading the athletics coverage from the Olympic Games this year and chairing the present series of *A Question of Sport*, despite collapsing through exhaustion four years ago.

Coleman, 66 years old and the father of six children, has been an important part in making British sports television among the best in the world, covering every World Cup football tournament since 1958 and every Olympic Games since 1960.

Through *Grandstand*,

*Match of the Day*, *Sportsnight* and *A Question of Sport* — as well as the Colemanballs column in *Private Eye* and his puppet caricature on *Spitting Image* — Coleman has become something of a cult figure.

David Mellor, the former Heritage secretary, has described Coleman as "a national treasure". Desmond Lynam, his fellow sports commentator on the BBC, says: "Nearly every sports fan has his doppelgänger — Peter O'Sullivan, Peter Alliss, Murray Walker, David Coleman. These guys are going to be very difficult to replace."



Coleman: voice of sport

## Reynolds calls IAAF 'vindictive'

BUTCH Reynolds, the world 400 metres record holder, yesterday accused the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of being "vindictive and anti-American" over his two-year ban for alleged use of steroids.

Reynolds was banned by the IAAF after a meeting in Monte Carlo in August 1990. The IAAF said Reynolds had tested positive for the anabolic steroid mesterolone during a random test.

Reynolds denied the charge and turned to the courts. Earlier this month, a US District Court in Columbus awarded Reynolds \$18 million compensation and said there was a "substantial likelihood" that the IAAF's report of Reynolds' drug use was not only false, but that it was disseminated with malice.

## Tottenham in dispute over Redknapp fee

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Football League has prohibited Bournemouth, of the second division, from buying new players following a dispute over money the club is said to owe to Tottenham Hotspur, of the Premier League.

Tottenham claim the club is owed £11,250 following the sale to Bournemouth of Jamie Redknapp in 1989. Part of the deal obliged Bournemouth to pay Tottenham 15 per cent of any future transfer deals involving Redknapp, who has since moved to Liverpool for a basic fee of £300,000.

Liverpool recently paid Bournemouth a further £75,000 after Redknapp made his 25th first-team appearance, but Tottenham complained to the Football League that they had not received their cut.

Bournemouth's financial director, Ken Gardiner, confirmed that the League had placed an embargo on Bournemouth buying any more players and said: "We will be making the payment next week."

The dispute continues a difficult week for Bournemouth, who have debts of £2.6 million, following the announcement that they had paid their former manager, Harry Redknapp, Jamie's father, a golden handshake of £100,000.

The club chairman, Norman Hayward, said: "When Harry told us he was finished with football — and he did a great job for the club — we took it at face value. At the time, we believed he was finished with the game." In fact, Redknapp Sr joined West Ham United soon afterwards as assistant manager.

There was better news for another second division club, Bolton Wanderers, who will host one of the outstanding ties in the FA Cup third round when they play Liverpool at Burnden Park on Sunday. They strengthened their hand yesterday when they completed the signing of David Lee, a winger, from Southampton. Lee, 25, who had been on loan with Bolton for almost two months, cost £200,000 but that could later rise to



£300,000 with payments linked to appearances.

Liverpool are guaranteed a searching examination of their defence, which has been inconsistent all season. Since joining Bolton from Celtic for a fee of just £100,000 last season, Andy Walker has scored 34 goals in 48 senior games, while John McGinlay has proved similarly effective, scoring nine times since his £150,000 transfer from Millwall three months ago.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, has yet to field an unchanged side so far this season, a record which will be maintained this weekend as Redknapp is unavailable because of suspension.

With several of his recognised senior squad also still unavailable because of long-term injury problems, Souness may recall Michael Thomas, now fully fit after an Achilles tendon operation.

Queens Park Rangers, who play Swindon Town at Loftus Road on Monday, will have an extra reason to want success. Their forward, Les Ferdinand, whose form has carried him to the fringe of the England team, seems likely to leave if Rangers are eliminated from the Cup.

Rangers may be prepared to consider overtures from Liverpool and Newcastle United for the striker if they lose, particularly if they subsequently drop down the Premier League, but it will need a record-breaking deal to prise Ferdinand, 26, from Loftus Road. Rangers are believed to have rejected a £3.3 million Newcastle bid for Ferdinand on Christmas eve.

However, the club's chairman, Richard Thompson, yesterday admitted he may be prepared to sell Ferdinand — if the price is right. "If someone came in with an offer of, say, £5 million, I would be stupid not to consider it, as I'm sure any rational fan would agree," he said.

Marlow's big day, page 38

## Royal Gait dies

ROYAL Gait, the champion hurdler, died of a heart attack after finishing fourth in the Bookmakers Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday. He collapsed under his jockey, Graham McCourt, moments after crossing the line.

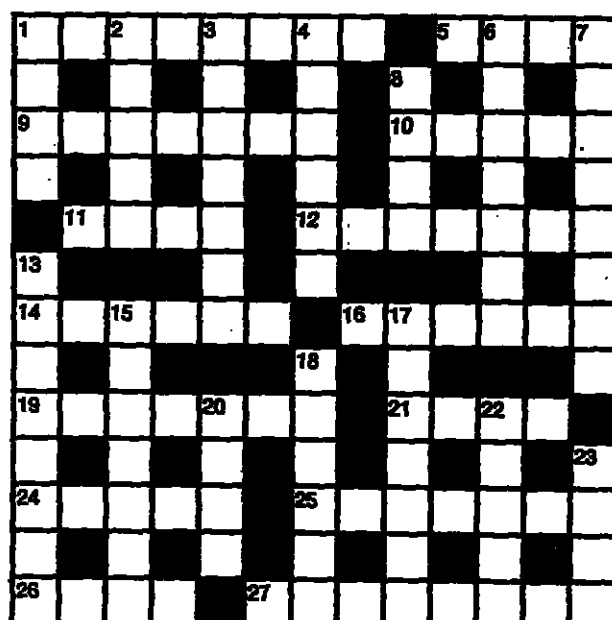
Making his seasonal debut, the nine-year-old, owned by Shaikh Mohammed and trained in Newmarket by James Fanshawe, completed the race just over six lengths behind the winner, Novello Allegro.

Jim Lenehan, the assistant manager at the shalikh's Kildangan Stud, said: "The horse wobbled just after passing the post. Graham thought he had broken down but when he went to pull him up he fell from under him."

Royal Gait, never a stranger to controversy, was disqualified after comfortably winning the 1988 Ascot Gold Cup, a decision which still arouses fierce debate.

Racing, page 35

### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2984



- ACROSS
- 1 Leading troops (8)
  - 5 This way (4)
  - 9 Cheese on toast (7)
  - 10 Pivot (5)
  - 11 S West US plateau (4)
  - 12 Rejection (7)
  - 14 Block (6)
  - 16 Wax stick (6)
  - 19 Few (7)
  - 21 Lights out signal (4)
  - 24 Pawnbroker (7)
  - 25 Wrestling (7)
  - 26 Homework (4)
  - 27 Gradual ski turn (8)
- DOWN
- 1 After (4)
  - 2 Impudence (5)
  - 3 Admonish (7)
  - 4 Go to bed (6)
  - 6 Trustworthiness (7)
  - 7 Bump (8)
  - 8 Male cook (4)
  - 13 Bar leap (4,4)
  - 15 Spirit (7)
  - 17 Go back over (7)
  - 18 Pestilence (6)
  - 20 Sense (4)
  - 22 British New Guinea (5)
  - 23 Bird jaws (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2983

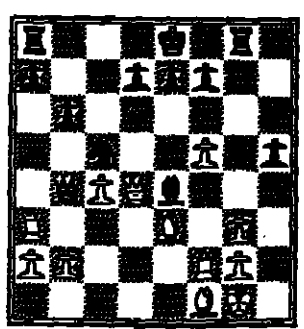
ACROSS: 1 Immortal 7 Forge 8 Saxophone 9 Sun 10 Damp 11 Canvas 13 Remedy 14 Murder 19 Parole 20 Snag 21 Ore 23 Stabilise 24 Batus 25 Dislikes

DOWN: 1 Insider 2 Maximum 3 Rape 4 Anorak 5 Brass 6 Means 7 Fervour 12 Address 15 Dunkirk 16 Regress 17 Alkali 18 Booby 19 Petty 22 Dial

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### WINNING MOVE

This position is from the game Chandler — Larsen, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1990/91. Here, white found a clever move exploiting the dangerous position of the black queen. Can you see it? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigy Judit Polgar. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500 (Raymond Keene).



Solution on page 34.

By PHILIP HOWARD

REHOBOAM

- a. A shovel hat
- a. A large bottle
- a. A Puritan heretic

OPTIMIFIC

- a. Novelistic happy endings
- a. Type of camera lens
- a. Producing best consequences

INDENTER

- a. Something that indents
- a. An Army clerk
- a. A front tooth

MESETA

- a. A Mexican coin
- a. A high plateau
- a. An hors d'oeuvre

Answers on page 34

## Christie's choice causes concern

MANCHESTER'S team, striving to bring the Olympic Games to the city in the year 2000 was alarmed yesterday by reports from Australia that Linford Christie had said that Sydney would be a better choice for the Games.

Christie, captain of the British athletics team and the gold medal winner in the 100 metres in Barcelona earlier this year, said Sydney had better weather and would be a better venue.

Christie — who praised the city in a Manchester 2000 newsletter, "Our Golden Future", only two months ago — was being interviewed in Sydney when he made his remarks.

He is in Australia for warm-weather training before a 1993 programme that includes the world championships and, in all probability, a series of races with Carl

Lewis. Leaders of the Manchester bid — which is being backed by £70 million from the government — were disappointed at his comments.

They said the Manchester climate was better in July and August than Sydney would be in October, when it proposes to stage the Games.

"Perceptions of rainfall in the period when we would host the Games are simply not borne out by the facts," a Manchester 2000 spokesman said last night.

He said that average monthly rainfall over the last ten years in Manchester had been 52mm in July and 78mm in August, compared with 75mm in Sydney in October.

He also claimed that humidity in Manchester, at 63 per cent, would be lower than



that in Sydney. It is also much lower than in both Barcelona, where the 1992 Games were held, and Atlanta, host for 1996. "We don't know whether Linford has been quoted out of context, but it is very disappointing," said one member of the bid team.

The International Olym-

pic Committee is to decide in September on the venue for the 2000 Games. The candidates, apart from Manchester and Sydney, include Peking, Berlin, Milan, Istanbul and Tashkent.

In Sydney, Christie confirmed that he would retire after the 1994 Commonwealth Games. "I've given myself two more years, to include next year's world championships and the defence of my title at the Commonwealth Games," Christie said.

He originally announced his retirement in August last year, two days after finishing fourth in the 100 metres at the world championships in Tokyo. But with some persuasion from his coach, Ron Roddan, Christie changed his mind and came back for a magnificent win in Barcelona.

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